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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-088 *8 May 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Committee Meets in Cairo

PNA's Sha'th Threatens UN Action

NC0705194595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—The meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee started in Cairo this evening under the chairmanship of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Sha'th announced in statements to reporters before the talks started that the only place for those issues that cannot be resolved over the negotiating table is the Security Council. He said that the Israelis do not want to resolve any issues relating to Jerusalem at the negotiating table, so there is no alternative other than the Security Council.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that the Jerusalem issue deals with Palestinian rights and legitimacy. "If we do not get our rights and Israel insists on its position, then we will go to the Security Council" Sha'th said.

He added that eastern Jerusalem is Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and that Israel's expropriation of this land is being done in accordance with a British law dating back to 1924 allowing the British Government to seize land for public use. He wondered: If these lands are truly Jewish, why does Israel need to use the British law to expropriate them?

Nabil Sha'th noted that the United States will be in a very difficult position if it uses the veto to prevent a Security Council resolution on the Jerusalem issue from being passed. The United States could avoid this position if it cancels the loan guarantees that were signed by former President George Bush and which give it the right to cancel them if Israel expands its settlement-building and expropriates Arab land occupied in 1967. Among this land is Jerusalem.

He said that they will continue the negotiations. Shim'on Peres did not make any statements.

Sha'th had earlier held a meeting with the Palestinian delegation for coordination purposes.

No Prgress on Jerusalem Issue

NC0805061695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee will resume in Cairo today chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The committee ended its meetings late last night after discussing the crisis between the two sides over Israel's decision to confiscate Arab land in east Jerusalem.

Palestinian delegation member Hasan 'Asfur said the meeting ended without progress on Jerusalem. He added that the Israelis are adamant in their positions and that it is difficult to pursue the peace process in light of their intransigence.

Work Permits Issued; Hebron Curfew Off

TA0805055895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will step up peace talks toward the end of this month in an effort to make progress on the interim stage—this according to a senior source in the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will hold talks in Cairo this morning with President Husni Mubarak. After this, the discussions between the Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will continue and a joint committee will convene to discuss the situation in Hebron.

A senior Palestinian source says that 22 members of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military wing arrested recently will remain in jail. At the end of meetings yesterday in Cairo, Foreign Minister Peres announced 250 Palestinian prisoners will be released today, along with 8 women prisoners, to mark the Muslim feast of the sacrifice.

Israel and the Palestinians also agreed that the committee of experts examining the return of Palestinians who fled in 1967 will convene in Beersheba next week; however, both Egypt and Jordan still have to agree to this date.

Foreign Minister Peres proposed to the Palestinians that talks begin immediately on the transfer of additional civilian powers to the Palestinians in the West Bank, covering insurance, trade and industry, fuel, and postage. During talks yesterday, both the Palestinian and Egyptian leaders criticized Israel's decision to build new neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, but Foreign Minister Peres made it clear Israel will not backtrack. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa warned Israel it was jeopardizing the Middle East peace process with its decision to confiscate land in East Jerusalem.

Another 3,000 Palestinian workers from Judaea and Samaria will be allowed to enter Israel. The decision was taken by Yitzhaq Rabin in his capacity as defense minister. The permits are to be granted to construction workers above the age of 30 who are married. The latest approval will bring the number of Palestinians holding work permits up to 30,000. [passage omitted]

The army lifted the dusk-to-dawn curfew on Hebron and on the Halhul-Hebron highway. The curfew was imposed seven weeks ago, following a terrorist attack in which two Israelis were killed.

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Israel Proposes Ad Hoc Committee

NC0805093995 Paris AFP in English 0821 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 8 (AFP)—Israel has proposed that a bilateral committee deal with land confiscations in East Jerusalem despite PLO hopes that the UN Security Council address the problem, a Palestinian official told AFP.

"Israel suggested on Sunday [7 May] handing the problem of the seizure of Arab lands in East Jerusalem over to an ad hoc committee created in October 1993 to solve problems in Jerusalem," the official, who requested anonymity, said Monday.

The ad hoc committee is presided over by Faysal al-Husayni, unofficial Palestinian "minister" for Jerusalem, and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

The official said the PLO might accept the proposal and "the committee is to meet in the next few days."

But he underlined that "this committee will not be an alternative to the Security Council."

The Arab League, after a request the PLO [as received], called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to force Israel not to confiscate 53 hectacres (131 acres) of land in East Jerusalem to build homes for Jews.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres insisted on Monday that 62 percent of the seized lands were Jewish-owned, only 27 percent Arab and 9.5 percent unknown. Al-Husayni dismissed the Israeli figures as "lies."

Peres was in Cairo Sunday and Monday to co-chair with Palestinian "minister" of international cooperation Nabil Sha'th a meeting of the liaison committee which oversees Israeli-Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Emergency Session on Jerusalem Begins

'Arafat Urges 'Basic Arab Stance'

NC0605103895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—The emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers began at the Arab League general secretariat premises today. The conferees will discuss Palestine's request for a unified Arab stand to confront Israel's seizure of the Palestinian land in Jerusalem.

The meeting is chaired by United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the situation is made more serious by the fact that the U.S. Republican Party, through U.S. Senate Majority Leader Senator Robert Dole, wants to submit a bill to Congress to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

'Abd-al-Majid remarked that if reports about these Republican plans are true, it will be a "shock" for everyone.

The Arab League secretary general added that in view of this new development, a call must be sent out for an Arab summit conference, even if it is a limited one. He said this summit must seek a just and comprehensive peace and reject surrender, occupation, the settlements, and the loss of Arab Jerusalem.

'Abd-al-Majid called for immediate action, including communicating with all governments, including the U.S. Government and friends in the United States, especially in the U.S. Congress, to illustrate the dangers of the current Israeli attitudes to the occupied Arab territories and the Jerusalem issue. He said the Arabs must demand that these attitudes be changed because the issue "is more dangerous than anyone thinks."

In his speech to the Arab foreign ministers emergency session Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat called for a "basic Arab stance" that stems from religious and pan-Arab commitment, responds to the challenges, is in line with international legality, and serves the cause of comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat added that such a stance must be based on the following principles: that "Jerusalem is Palestinian," that it represents a "red line" that no Christian or Muslim Arab can cross, that it is "Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic territory" in accordance with the initiative of the Madrid Middle East peace conference, and that it is the capital of the state of Palestine from which Israel must withdraw.

He said that the Arab stance must rest on the premise that the Israeli measures regarding the city of Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied lands are "a blow to the credibility of the peace process" and that they "forestall any efforts to develop or expand the peace process on the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian fronts." 'Arafat said that the Israeli measures show Israel's persistence in defying the international community through a "policy of nuclear blackmail."

'Arafat pointed out that Israel continues to follow a policy that is inimical to peace.

The Palestinian president said that anyone who thinks that the Arab willingness to continue the peace process is not linked to fundamental principles is "making a very big mistake."

He warned the countries of the world of the consequences of the current peace impasse in the Middle East, noting that this region holds the keys to global peace.

'Arafat urged taking recourse to the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, in order to deal with

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this serious situation, which violates all UN resolutions, the Geneva Conventions, and the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He explained that Europe and the whole world are against what is happening and oppose these serious violations.

The Palestinian president lauded the immediate response of the Arab League member states and its secretary general, who reaffirmed their longstanding pan-Arab stance regarding the Palestinian issue and Jerusalem. He noted that this response emphasizes and underlines the fact that this issue has always been and continues to be the rallying point for our peoples and countries and the starting point for building a unified Arab stand.

In his speech, 'Arafat reviewed the developments of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track beginning with the Declaration of Principles and ending with the conclusion of the agreement. He pointed out that this stage had been a difficult experience which the Palestinian side endured with a sincere will and determination to achieve peace. It was also a stage during which the Arab states' support for the agreement and the Palestinian National Authority [FA] became manifest, he added.

The Palestinian president added that while the world was celebrating the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as a historic step preparing the ground for an unprecedented reconciliation in the region, the Israelis adopted measures showing their inability to come to terms with and accept the recognition of the Palestinian people, their rights, and their sole legitimate representative. 'Arafat noted that the Israeli measures had started with an attempt to curtail the peace agreement, close the doors opened by the peace process, and kill the spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement by failing to accurately and honestly implement the agreements concluded, thus jeopardizing the entire peace process.

President 'Arafat pointed out that the crisis that Israel had created by departing from the spirit of the peace agreement is manifest in its deliberate procrastination and reluctance to honor the agreement as well as its attempts to dictate interpretations that are in flagrant violation of the spirit and principles of the agreement. In addition, he added, Israel has reneged on its promises on various occasions, such as regarding the release of Palestinian detainees and prisoners held in its jails, the transfer of powers, and border crossings. He noted that by so doing, Israel had dealt strong blows to the peace process, unleashed feelings of despair and frustration, and fed the extremist currents.

'Arafat added that Israel has expropriated more than one third of Jerusalem land and banned construction on and disposal of most of the remaining land. He stressed that the al-Aqsa Mosque is in real danger and that it has become impossible for Muslims to perform prayers on the most important religious occasions, and the same goes for Christians. He noted that Jerusalem, about which the Arab League Council is meeting today, is an example of the Israeli attempts to evade the commitments and pledges concluded under international supervision and a model of the policy of closure and siege to which the PA's areas in the occupied West Bank are being subjected.

'Arafat pointed out that Jerusalem is the symbol of the Palestinian issue and the basis of the peace process. He called on the cosponsors of the peace process to assume their responsibilities regarding this serious situation.

Concluding, 'Arafat thanked the Islamic states, the nonaligned states, and the friendly states for their serious stand in support of the Palestinian issue at the UN.

Israeli Land Expropriation Denounced

NC0605153895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League Council unanimously denounced the Israeli Government's decision to expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem, which constitutes a serious violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, a breach of the relevant Security Council resolutions as well as the Geneva Convention for the year 1949, and an extremely serious threat to the peace process.

At the end of its meeting at the Arab League in Cairo today, the council decided not to recognize, under any circumstances, any changes made by Israel in Jerusalem and to consider such changes null and void.

The Arab League secretary general and the Arab states have made the necessary contacts with Russia and the United States, the cosponsors of the peace process; the EU; the Security Council member states; and the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement to clearly voice their position on these Israeli violations, which conflict with the requirements and the continuation of the peace process.

The Arab League Council also decided to task Morocco, whose King Hassan II is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and the United Arab Emirates, which is the current president of the Arab League Council, to make contacts, in coordination with the Arab group at the UN, to convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the matter and announce the illegitimacy of Israel's measure.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held a press conference at the end of the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that it has been decided to keep the Council in open session.

Resolution Calls For Nonrecognition

NC0605180595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—The Arab League Council has declared its rejection of Israel's

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claims that Jerusalem is its eternal capital and that it will not recognize this under any circumstances. In a resolution issued today, the Arab League Council called on all countries of the world not to deal with Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It called on the Arab countries and the Arab League secretary general to immediately hold the necessary contacts with the United States and the Russian Federation in their capacity as the cosponsors of the peace process in the Middle East.

The following is the text of Resolution 5487 on Jerusalem issued today by the Arab League Council: The Arab League Council has decided: First, collective condemnation of the Israeli Government's decision to expropriate more Palestinian territory in Jerusalem and outside it. This decision constitutes a violation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and a defiance of international law and order, of the Security Council's relevant resolutions, and of the principles of the international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilians during war time. In addition, this decision poses an extremely serious threat to the entire peace process and mars the balance in obligations and rights which gives the peace process credibility and makes it acceptable.

Second, it will not recognize under any circumstances any alterations to the legal status, the demographic structure, or geography of Jerusalem that Israel may make, being the occupying country. It calls on all countries of the world to emphasize their nonrecognition of these changes which represent a serious threat to the ongoing peace process and to the chances of peace in the present and the future in accordance with Security Council Resolution 478.

Third, it rejects Israel's claims that Jerusalem is its eternal capital and decides not to recognize this claim under any circumstances. It calls on all countries of the world not to deal with Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Fourth, the Arab countries and the Arab League secretary general will immediately hold the necessary contacts with the United States and the Russian Federation in their capacity as the cosponsors of the peace process, with the permanent members of the Security Council and all members, and with the European Union and to call on them to unequivocally declare their stance on the Israeli violations which run counter to the requirements of the peace process. The Arab countries will support the Palestinian Arab presence and establishments in holy Jerusalem.

Fifth: The Arab League Council will entrust Morocco, in view of the fact that King Hassan II is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and the United Arab Emirates, being the current chairman of the Arab League session, to request an emergency session of the Security Council to discuss the issue and declare that Israel's decision is illegal, to force it to repeal its decision to expropriate the Palestinian territory in Jerusalem and outside it, to make it stop its settlement programs and plans, to end the closure of the city and all excavations that threaten the foundations of al-Aqsa Mosque. These measures will guarantee continuation of the peace process and achieve its goals on the basis of international legitimacy, Security Council Resolutions 252, 267, 465, 476, and 478, and the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and of UNESCO. It emphasizes the need for security measures to protect the public and private Palestinian Arab territory without exception. The Security Council must take into consideration the special status of Jerusalem.

Sixth: The Arab League secretary general will follow up implementation of this resolution and hold the necessary contacts with the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the nonaligned countries and submit a report to the Arab League Council, which considers this session open.

It should be recalled that the Arab League Council has introduced amendments to Paragraph B of the draft resolution which emphasized the need for security measures to protect the private and public Palestinian land.

League Head Urges Arab Mini-Summit

NC0605165295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that he will hold contacts with the Arab states to arrange for an Arab mini- summit to discuss all issues related to Jerusalem.

In a press conference held at the end of an extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that he believes that the Arab summit should be similar to the mini-summit held in Alexandria at the end of December 1994. He noted that the successful Alexandria summit was a qualitative turning point in inter-Arab affairs. He added that his call for an Arab mini-summit had proceeded from the fact that a repetition of the Alexandria summit is possible. He noted that the details of the Arab mini-summit were not discussed at the Arab League Council meeting today.

It is worth noting that the Alexandria summit, which was held on 28 December, grouped, in addition to President Husni Mubarak, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Asked about Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's remark in his speech that peace is completely collapsing, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that comments on the Palestinian president's speech had been made during the closed meeting. He pointed out that the conferees had debated a proposal by the Palestinian delegation regarding the multilateral talks, which hinted at halting these talks if things are complicated further.

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The Arab League secretary general noted that coordination will be maintained at the Arab and international levels, particularly among members of the Security Council, adding that the responsibility of the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee will be defined in the coming session.

Asked about the absence in the Arab League statement of any reference to halting the talks with Israel, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are discussing the question of Jerusalem and warning against the Israeli measures that seek to change the demographic nature of the city.

In response to a question about recent remarks by Madeleine Albright, U.S. delegate to the UN, that it is not possible to discuss the Jerusalem issue at the UN and that the United States may veto the matter, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid hoped that this would not happen because if it did, it would be an extremely serious matter.

Asked about the possibility of freezing normalization with Israel as a countermeasure to its continued violations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are dealing with a serious situation that requires measures and needs calm. He noted that the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers had been convened urgently, which gives an indication of the seriousness of the matter.

Asked about the significance of Israel's refusal to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its seizure of Palestinian territories in Jerusalem, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Israel disregards the world, the Arab states, and the peace process. He pointed out that the Israeli action does not signal any hope that the peace process will lead to success. He added: We want the peace process to succeed, but it takes two parties with sincere intentions to make peace.

League Asks UN To Convene Session

NC0705151895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League has asked the UN secretary general to try to convene an urgent session of the Security Council to discuss the Israeli decision to expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem and set up housing units for Jewish settlers on this land. The Arab League will hold contacts with the member countries of the Security Council, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement to coordinate positions on this matter.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid sent a message today to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali in which he informed him of the Arab League's resolution, which was approved yesterday during the emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers, regarding Jerusalem and the need to make the United Nations and the Security Council shoulder their full responsibilities toward Jerusalem and to put pressure on Israel to abide by the international resolutions which consider Jerusalem a part of the Arab territories

Moroccan King Sends Letter to Clinton

NC0605161195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moroccan King Hassan II, who is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, has warned that Israel's expropriation of Arab land in East Jerusalem for the purpose of building Israeli settlements on it will obstruct the peace process and increase the existing tension in the Middle East.

In urgent messages he has sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Security Council members, King Hassan II stressed that the seizure of these territories constitutes a flagrant violation of international laws, particularly since both the Palestinian and Israeli sides had agreed to postpone issues concerning Jerusalem to the final stage of negotiations. This requires the need to refrain from taking any unilateral measures, he added.

The chairman of the Jerusalem Committee urged Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin to take immediate steps to have Israel reverse its decision so that peace can be revived.

The Moroccan King also sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which he underlined the Organization of the Islamic Conference's protest at the expropriation of the Arab territories and drew his attention to the grave risks Israel is putting itself in by jeopardizing a fragile peace that needs to be consolidated.

'Arafat Satisfied With League Plan

NC0605153395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he is satisfied with the Arab League Council's draft plan on the Israeli act of aggression against Jerusalem. In a statement after the Arab League Council's emergency meeting today, 'Arafat said that this meeting demonstrates a unified Arab stance supportive of the Palestinian people and the Jerusalem issue. He said that by holding this meeting, the Arab nation conveys a message to the cosponsors of the Peace Conference and to the whole world emphasizing that peace must be fair and comprehensive and in line with the UN resolutions and the basis on which we agreed to attend the Madrid Peace Conference, most important of which is the principle of land for peace, primarily Arab Jerusalem.

Jordan's al-Kabariti Comments

JN0605200495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League has called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss Israel's decision to confiscate territories in Jerusalem area and to force Israel to cancel the decision and stop its settlement plans. Details are in the following:

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[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] At the end of its emergency meeting in Cairo today at the foreign ministers' level, the Arab League Council asked Morocco, as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and the United Arab Emirates, as current chairman of the Arab League Council, to coordinate with Djibouti and the Sultanate of Oman, members of the Security Council, and with the Arab UN group, to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council on Israel's confiscation of Palestinian territories in Jerusalem area and to ask the Arab League secretary general to follow up efforts in this direction and to leave the meeting open.

The council unanimously condemned Israel's measures as a violation of all international resolutions and norms and as a threat to the peace process. The council urged all countries not to deal with Jerusalem as the capital of Israel or recognize under any circumstances amendments introduced in the holy city.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told the Jordanian News Agency's correspondent in Cairo that the current subject of discussion is a major issue and endangers the peace process. He voiced his belief that this effort is not meant to paralyze the peace process, but to seek ways to support that process and to remove the obstacles to enable it to achieve its goals in light of the international terms of reference and UN and Security Council resolutions. Hence, proposals to link issues like multilateral and bilateral negotiations to the current subject of discussion will waste efforts, which should focus on how to save Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy shrines and on how to promote prospects for achieving balanced, just, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Kabariti expressed his belief that the resolution [passed by the Arab League Council] reflects the minimum Arab unanimity, and said: We in Jordan hope that such meetings will offer an opportunity for soul-searching and learning lessons, namely, that the Arab situation is a result of the lack of Arab cooperation and coordination. He added: We had hoped that Jerusalem would be a principal issue and would not be postponed to a later stage in accordance with the Oslo agreement. We still hope that the Palestinian brothers will be able to enter into the final status negotiations as soon as possible in order to deal with urgent issues like refugees, settlements, borders, and, of course, the central issue of Jerusalem.

The foreign minister expressed Jordan's refusal to stop normalization of relations with Israel, and said he does not believe this issue has anything to do with today's subject of discussion by the Arab League's meeting. He stressed that Jordan was ready to cooperate with all the Arab parties to work out a mechanism to stop the confiscation of Arab territories and facilitate and promote the peace process and negotiations.

For his part, Moroccan King Hassan II sent letters to the sponsors of the peace process urging them to get Israel to cancel its decision. He also sent a letter to the Israeli prime minister in which he voiced his strong protest against Israel's decision and warned of its serious impact.

Today, a spokesman for the Israeli Government reiterated Israel's objection to a meeting of the Security Council to look into this issue. [end recording]

Al-Kabariti: Israel Against Peace

NC0605200495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has affirmed that there is full Arab agreement over the resolution adopted by the Arab League Council today, which was presented by the state of Palestine regarding the Israeli Government's decision to expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem.

The Jordanian minister expressed hopes that the Security Council will today manage to adopt the appropriate resolution that would stop the activities and measures Israel has taken against Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places.

He said in a statement after the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting today that his country adheres to the Arab stance and supports the resolution. He confirmed that there is full Palestinian-Jordanian coordination over Jerusalem.

He expressed his belief that the best way to deal with this issue is to move to the final stage immediately since the intention behind the current stage was confidence-building between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides. However, Israel has so far not taken a single measure that could be described as a confidence-building measure which goes along with the spirit of peace and the agreements that have been signed.

He clarified that the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations to conclude a trade deal which would realize Jordan's national interests continue.

Moroccan Premier Assails Land Decision

NC0605195595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of state for foreign affairs, has described the situation in Jerusalem as extremely serious and as one that may negatively affect the peace process in the region. In a statement following the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council today, he said that the Arab League Council's resolution, which calls on the Security Council to hold an urgent session to discuss the Israeli Government decision to expropriate Palestinian territory in Jerusalem is a realistic resolution and in line with the requirements of the current international circumstances. He said that beginning today he will hold contacts with the Moroccan representative at the United Nations to

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contact representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

Filali called on the Security Council to adopt a clear stance on the Israeli measures in Jerusalem, particularly because they constitute a violation of the Security Council resolutions. He said that in its capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and president of the current session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Morocco has made extensive moves and sent messages to the cosponsors of the Peace Conference, the Security Council members, and the Israeli prime minister denouncing and rejecting Israel's latest decision. He did not rule out the possibility of holding a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee to discuss this issue.

PLO's Qaddumi, League Chief Consult

NC0705130995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi today discussed the results of yesterday's extraordinary Arab League Council session and how to implement its resolutions.

In a statement, Qaddumi issued a worldwide call to respond to those resolutions and force Israel to respect UN resolutions and repeal its decision on the expropriation of Palestinian land in occupied Jerusalem.

Qaddumi also called for deterrent measures to force Israel to respond to the will of the world community.

PLO Refutes Peres Comments on Land

NC0705204595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi this evening.

Qaddumi stated that they discussed ways of implementing the Arab League Council's resolutions on Jerusalem and expediting a UN Security Council meeting to adopt a measure to confront the Israeli actions in Jerusalem.

Asked to comment on Shim'on Peres's announcement that only 27 percent of the confiscated land in Jerusalem belongs to Palestinians, Qaddumi answered that Peres' remarks are very far from the truth and that Palestinians own more than 90 percent of the expropriated land. He said this land is occupied territory and the occupation authorities have no right to use them.

Libyan Official Backs Arab Summit

NC0705153695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity.

Speaking after the meeting, al-Fazzani stated that he had reviewed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the results of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council held yesterday to discuss the recent Israeli seizure of Arab lands in Jerusalem. They also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Libya and the Arab League to serve the interests of the Arab peoples. Al-Fazzani added that he had informed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid of Libya's approval of and support for the proposal mentioned in his speech at the opening session of the Arab League meeting to convene a limited Arab summit similar to the Alexandria summit. He added that Libya, out of keenness for unity in the Arab ranks, supports Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's call, which is in line with the initiatives of Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to restore Arab solidarity and rise to the challenges facing us.

Al-Fazzani stressed the need to maintain the Arab stance that rejects the Israeli measures in occupied Jerusalem and to inform all organizations and quarters concerned with Jerusalem affairs of this position.

Al-Husayni on Halting Negotiations

JN0605183695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 May 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam from Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arab League Council has concluded its emergency session, which was devoted to the Arab stand toward the Israeli decision to expropriate 53 donums of eastern Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The Arab League Council debated a Palestinian proposal that multilateral negotiations be halted. Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority, said this issue is debatable.

Asked why Palestine has not stopped the bilateral negotiations before asking the Arab states to halt the multilateral negotiations, al-Husayni said:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] As a matter of fact, the Palestinian delegation has recommended reconsidering the multilateral negotiations. It is clear that the Palestinian view has been, from the very beginning, that we have two kinds of negotiations. First, the bilateral negotiations, which are the venue at which, we think, Israel should pay the price, which is the issue of withdrawal. As for the multilateral talks, they are the venue at which Israel collects the price of peace, which is an opening to it and establishing political and economic relations with Arab countries.

Regrettably, what is happening now is that the Arabs are attending the multilateral negotiations without any coordination and without taking this issue into consideration. Thus, Israel quickly picks the fruit of peace before

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peace is achieved. Therefore, the Palestinian demand is for a true confrontation regarding the multilateral conference. We either deal with this conference in a way that enables it to achieve its purpose, or we halt these negotiations. [end recording]

Faysal al-Husayni added that the draft resolution issued by the Arab League Council is a beginning for other developments, and that the multilateral negotiations should be reassessed, saying this is a test of the U.S. position. The United States should say whether it still regards Jerusalem as part of the occupied Palestinian territories or if the U.S. Government has changed its stand or will use its veto right while discussing this issue at the Security Council. If this happens, it will mean that the United States has changed its official position on Jerusalem. In this case, the Palestinian side can no longer accept the United States as a sponsor of the peace process.

Envoys 'Vehemently' Assail Albright Statements

MM0505112795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 95 p 7

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Albright Faces Criticism Before Departing Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Before her departure from Cairo yesterday, Ambassador Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative to the United Nations, was vehemently criticized by Egypt and the Arab League for the statements she made following her meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, especially regarding what she attributed to Mubarak, namely that "he expressed understanding of the need to isolate Iran as a state supporting terrorism and harming security and stability in the region." She also said that the problem concerning Israel's seizure of lands in east Jerusalem "can be solved by offering compensation." [passage omitted]

Ambassador 'Adnan'Imran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has told AL-HAYAH: "Albright's statements conflict with the role the U.S. Administration is required to play in the peace process, on the grounds that it is a cosponsor. Bias toward Israel in such a manner will not lead to real peace in the region. The U.S. official pretended to have forgotten the Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem."

Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council and Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, criticized what the U.S. ambassador said. He told AL-HAYAH: "Albright has shocked Arab, Islamic, and Christian public opinion. The double standard policy continues to govern the U.S. Administration's work." He urged Albright as an ambassador to the United Nations to "refer to Security Council Resolutions 252, 267, 476, and 478 to find out whether or not Israel's decision to confiscate Palestinian land falls under the Security Council's jurisdiction." He said: "The natural place for such statements is the trash can." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Communique Promises 'Unique Escalation'

JN0805102695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 8 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] In its Intifadah Communique No. 123, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on the self-rule authority to stop its repressive measures, immediately release all Palestinian detainees, and cancel the State Security Court and all its void decisions against the heroes of the Palestinian people. The communique, which was issued by Hamas on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, reaffirms that the wagers of the enemies and rancorous ones who imagined that committing crimes and concocting plots against our people's jihad will weaken the mujahidin or prevent them from continuing the path of jihad and struggle will all fail.

The Hamas communique says: These people have been disappointed and all their wagers have been disproved because our people reject injustice and are always ready for retaliation.

The communique notes that the Zionist enemy ignores all agreements and commitments, builds settlements, and is confiscating most of the Palestinian land, as well as Jerusalem. Meanwhile, enemy soldiers and special units continue their crimes, assassinations, and various criminal acts against our people and mujahidin in Hebron and the jails and detention camps.

The communique says: The fragile self-rule authority, which demonstrates its strength against our people, is satisfied with filing humiliating protests and helpless complaints against the Zionist crimes represented by settlement activities, assassinations, and repressive measures. This authority also launches large-scale campaigns of attacks and arrests against the mujahidin.

The communique stresses that the Palestinian people, who rejected the injustice of Zionist occupation authorities and rebelled against them, cannot accept the self-rule authority doing the same against them.

The communique called on the Arabs and Muslims, as well as regional and international institutions, to confront the Zionist settlement schemes aimed at devouring more Palestinian lands.

The communique defined the activities of the coming stage, as follows: On 9 May, a general strike will be observed on the 90th month of the intifadah; on 15 May, sit-in and popular demonstrations will be staged on the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine; the period 18-21 May will witness a unique escalation against the occupation on the anniversary of the arrest of mujahid Ahmad Yasin, the shaykh of the intifadah and on the anniversary of the Rishon LeZiyyon massacre.

Hamas Warns of Intifadah; PA Issues 'Ultimatum'

TA0705092995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 May 95 p 6

[Report by Eli Bohadana and Shefi Gabay]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements have warned that an intifadah against the Palestinian Authority [PA] might break out any minute if the PA continues its policy against the organization. "The PA must change its policy if it wants to avoid bloodshed," Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas leaders, said in Gaza two days ago.

Last Friday, thousands of Hamas activists demonstrated in front of the al-Filastin Mosque. Addressing the demonstrators, al-Zahhar said that the demonstration should be viewed as a warning to the PA against a deterioration in Gaza Strip. "We could easily rally thousands of Palestinians onto the streets if we wanted to. It has only been our sense of responsibility that has prevented us from doing so." He added that no element can stop the Hamas' jihad against the "Zionist enemy."

Al-Zahhar further said that Hamas remembers that Palestinian prisoners are being abused in the Gaza prisons and that "the time has come to settle the accounts between us and the PA." He called on the PA to immediately release all the prisoners, establish a commission of inquiry, and abolish the military court.

The PA issued an ultimatum to Hamas, according to which if Hamas fails to remove its posters and graffiti against senior PA officials and clear the city of all the pictures of Hamas activists who were killed while perpetrating terror attacks, and if preachers in the mosques do not stop preaching against the PA, the organization will meet the PA's iron fist. It has been further reported that on 15 May, the Palestinian police will begin confiscating weapons from the terror organizations. Gaza Police commander Ghazi al-Jabali announced that the police intend to raid the mosques and seize every means used by the opposition against the PA.

Senior Hamas officials, including Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, warned that seizing weapons or raiding the mosques, would mean crossing a Hamas red line.

Israeli 'Allegations' on Construction Rejected

JN0605190295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Orient House has rejected Israeli allegations about new construction at its headquarters in occupied Jerusalem. A statement issued by Orient House today said there is no new construction at the site. What is happening is only renovation and repair of construction that already exists.

The statement said the Israeli allegations are part of a rabid campaign launched by extremist parties in Israel and some sides within the government against the major role played by Orient House in the political process, since Orient House is the headquarters of the Palestinian team to the peace talks.

The Orient House statement said the Israeli onslaught is part of a large-scale instigation campaign against all Palestinian institutions in occupied Jerusalem. Orient House said anyone who wants to see the site is welcome to visit and check the renovations and repairs.

The statement appealed to the cosponsors of the peace conference, other nations, and all peace-loving forces to side with the Palestinian people in their defense of their national rights against Israeli practices, including expropriation of Palestinian land.

'Arafat Receives Message From Russia's Kozyrev

JN0505190995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this morning received Russian Minister (Vladimir Bosnyko). The Russian minister delivered a message to President 'Arafat from Russian Foreign Minister Andre Kozyrev dealing with developments in the Middle East peace process and Russian-Palestinian ties. President 'Arafat gave the Russian minister a message to the Russian leadership on the latest developments in the Middle East, especially the expropriation of territories in Jerusalem.

In another development, President 'Arafat received a message of congratulations from Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev on the first anniversary of signing the Cairo agreement and the return to the homeland. The Russian minister lauded the agreement that led to the creation of the Palestinian National Authority and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from part of the occupied Palestinian territories. The minister said Palestinian-Israeli negotiations should be invigorated to implement the Middle East peace process.

He added: In Moscow, they highly appreciate the wisdom and courage you have demonstrated on a difficult path toward achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. You can be assured that we will support you in this regard.

The Russian minister added: I still cherish our last meeting in Gaza, and I hope that dialogue will continue.

Russia To Open Representation Office in NA Area

JN0505133195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has decided to open a representation office in the National Authority [NA]. A Russian diplomatic source said Moscow made the decision in accordance with the Cairo agreement on arrangements for the NA to assume its duties and in light of the experiences of other countries that have opened representation offices in Palestinian areas.

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Algeria

Radio Reports Assassination of Five Foreigners

LD0505103095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security services' statement said that an armed terrorist group had assassinated at 0500 this morning six people, five of whom were foreigners and one Algerian, in the city of Ghardaia.

The same statement pointed out that the assassination operation took place inside a pipeline enterprise in Ghardaia's industrial area.

The nationalities of the assassinated foreigners were Tunisian, French, Canadian, and British.

Government Condemns Killings

LD0505170395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the assassination of foreign nationals in the Anabib enterprise in the Bou Noura industrial area in Ghardaia Province, the government has issued the following statement:

The Algerian Government received with great indignation the news of the barbaric terrorist act that took place in Ghardaia on the night of 4-5 May, in which five foreign nationals working at the Anabib national enterprise were killed.

The statement adds:

The Algerian Government strongly condemns this atrocious act which targeted Algeria's guests who have come here to contribute to the development of the nation.

Security Service Identifies Victims

LD0505130295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services issued a statement this morning announcing the assassination of an Algerian citizen and five foreign nationals at dawn today, about 0500, by an armed terrorist group. The statement added that the assassination took place inside a pipeline enterprise in the industrial area of Bounoura municipality, Ghardaia Province.

The victims were Policeman Nouira Ahmed, an Algerian citizen; Ze mirli Mustapha, a Tunisian national; two French nationals, Machabert Richard Francois and Jean Claude Georges; a British national, Edward Wilson; and a Canadian national, (?Mac Gari Janer Denis).

The foreign nationals worked at the pipeline enterprise.

The security services' statement added that four security men charged with guarding the pipeline enterprise were injured and taken to the hospital.

FIS: Security Services Behind Attack

LD0605095495 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We start with Algeria and the killing of the five foreigners in Ghardaia region, 500 kilometers south from Algiers. The victims were two Frenchmen, one Canadian, a Briton, and a Tunisian. [passage omitted]

Everybody has condemned this attack of course, including the Islamic Salvation Front, the FIS, which recalled that its movement is against the murder of civilians. FIS blamed the Algerian secret services for the attack.

The latter spoke of an odious attack which contradicts the secular traditions of hospitality of the Algerian people. Paris also described this criminal attack as odious and asked the Algerian Government to provide it with all the facts on these killings. [passage omitted]

Minister Cherif Meets Envoys

LD0505173095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform, today received the ambassadors of Britain and Canada and the charges d'affaires of the Tunisian, French, and Canadian Embassies.

The meeting was held following the criminal act which resulted in the killing today of five nationals of the abovementioned countries who were working at the Anabib national enterprise in Ghardaia.

During the meeting, Cherif stressed Algeria's determination to eliminate terrorism and ensure the enforcement of order.

Minister Determined To Stop Terror

LD0605143195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Canada, Great Britain, and France have urged their nationals to leave Algeria if their presence in the country is not essential. [passage omitted] The five foreigners were apparently machinegunned in their living quarters—a detail provided by Algerian Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, who has insisted that the authorities are determined to put an end to terrorist actions. This is what he said:

[Begin Cherif recording] This was intended to be a spectacular attack. Given the national and international political situation, efforts made by our national people's army and the police are combining to produce the result that we have set ourselves, the elimination of terrorism.

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There are, naturally, a few who have survived, who have fled, and who are trying to spring the occasional surprise like this one.

Thus, they were able to machine-gun two places—two apartments—inside the industrial zone. It's the sort of thing that can happen. Terrorism does not give advance warning. It acts in a cowardly way, taking people by surprise. But I can assure you that, whatever the difficulties and regardless of accidents—accidents of this kind—we are convinced that we will soon put an end to these attacks. [end recording]

State Prosecutor Murdered in Algiers

LD0705104195 Paris France-Info Radio in French 1015 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was another killing of a magistrate in Algeria. The state prosecutor for the court in Medea, father of two young children, was shot in the head at point-blank range just as he was getting into his car, in an outlying district of Algiers.

Security Forces Kill 17 'Terrorists' in Chlef

LD0505171595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said in a statement today that their forces killed 17 "terrorists," including five gang leaders in Beni Bouateb, Chlef Province.

The statement added that during the operation the security forces also managed to free 14 women, among whom were two married women and three minors.

Security Forces Kill 33 'Terrorists,' Seize Weapons

LD0605185395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have announced that they killed 33 terrorists in several operations in various parts of the country. Weapons were also recovered.

Berber Group Rejects 'Truce, Dialogue' With Regime

MM0505111895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Berber Organization Warns Against Continued 'Attacks' on Inhabitants of Tribal Areas in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy yesterday, issued by the "Armed Amazight [Berber] Islamic Movement," which is not widely known and whose activities are limited to the tribal areas, has announced that the movement rejects any peace, truce, or dialogue with the Algerian regime. The position of the movement, which operates under the banner of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], comes as the split in the tribal areas continues to deepen among those supporting and those opposed to the agreement signed by the authorities with part of the Berber movement vis-a-vis the Amazight language.

A general strike is expected to be staged in the capital and in the tribal areas in response to a call from supporters of Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, to demand that the Amazight language be recognized and introduced in the education system. Ait Ahmed's supporters believe that the agreement signed between the government and part of the Berber movement on the Amazight language is not sufficient.

The Armed Amazight Movement's statement said that the movement "rejects any dialogue, peace, or truce" with the Algerian regime—a famous phrase which was used last year in a long statement signed by Abu Abdallah Ahmed, former amir of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. The Amazight Movement also stressed its "determination to continue the Jihad." It also issued a warning to "anyone thinking of trading in the cause of the people and the mujahidin or exploiting it in suspicious political maneuvers." It did not name those intended. It dissociated itself "from all the criminal actions violating the rules of the Shari'ah, which are committed by the regime's mercenaries, professional criminals, and bandits." It pointed to "the killing of innocent people, the encroachment on sanctities, the plunder of people's money, and other crimes, which have nothing to do with the mujahidin."

It seems that the movement is referring to actions attributed to the GIA which are arousing the indignation of the inhabitants of the tribal areas. Some quarters in these areas are seeking to arm inhabitants and to establish armed militias to confront the GIA. Such militias have already been formed in more than one area, and confrontations have taken place between these militias and Islamic groups, in which a number of people have been killed.

It is believed that the statement is aimed at containing the inhabitants' discontent at some GIA actions. The statement also confirms that there people defending the Amazight language inside the Islamic movement.

The movement stressed its "loyalty and allegiance to the FIS and its legitimate leadership arising from the loyalty seminar held in Batna, capital of Aures." This meeting was held in the summer of 1991 after the FIS leaders' arrest, and at it the leadership was unified after the shock it suffered as a result of the positions adopted by some of its members on the "peaceful strike" issue.

At another level, the AL-TABSIRAH bulletin, an Islamic publication issued in Europe, distributed with its recent issue a statement signed by Abdelrazzak Radjam, official in charge of the "National Information Committee," who pledged allegiance to the former GIA amir. The

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fourth point of the statement said that "we believe in unity because it is a necessity, and we are seeking to achieve it among the mujahidin. Thus we support the FIS' initiative represented in the Islamic Salvation Army plan."

It seems that the statement's distribution at this particular time is a reply to the GIA. It is also designed to point out that the Salvation Army establishment is an old idea which was proposed before the statement on unity under the GIA banner was issued early in 1994. Hence it wants to say that "the mujahidin's unity" should have be achieved under the Salvation Army's banner.

The statement is signed by 10 officials from the "military committee for the east," first and foremost Madani Mezrak (Abu al- Haytham), who is now the Salvation Army's "national amir" in all Algeria.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Israel's Peres, Other Ministers

NC0805075295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0717 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Presidential Office this morning.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the meeting. Also present on the Israeli side were Environment Minister Yosi Sarid; Minister of Police Affairs Moshe Shahal; Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan; Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir; and the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general, Avi Jel [name as received].

Musa, Peres Disagree Over Jerusalem Issue

NC0705183095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reasserted Egypt's conviction that the expropriation of land or construction on territories in Jerusalem run counter to international law. He said that Egypt hopes that no demographic or geographic change will occur in Jerusalem. This came in a joint news conference held by Musa and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres after their talks that lasted for two and a half hours.

Musa began the news conference with a statement in which he noted that he and Peres held lengthy talks on issues of concern in the region and outside it. He reaffirmed Egypt's insistence on continuation of the peace process and on succeeding on the basis of the principles on which agreement was reached within the framework of the Madrid Peace Conference.

Peres made a statement at the news conference in which he noted that the Israeli delegation came to Cairo with the aim of continuing the peace process. He pointed out that the peace process has achieved some success but it is still facing problems and difficulties. He added: "We have come with a sincere desire to see how we can overcome these problems with the Palestinians regarding the Declaration of Principles agreement and the establishment of self-rule in other areas while guaranteeing Israel's security." He said that Egypt is playing an important role in establishing peace in the Middle East.

Peres said that the issue of Jerusalem was discussed and that Israel did not expropriate land from its owners to give it to those who do not own it. He said that what has happened is that to build new homes the Israeli municipality allocated areas to build these homes. He added that 550 hectares have been allocated and that they were not expropriated but allocated for building. He pointed out that 62 percent of this land is owned by Jews and not Arabs, that 9.5 percent has no owners, that 27 percent is owned by Arabs, and that the largest part of these buildings will be allocated for the Arabs of Jerusalem. He said that Israel does not differentiate between Jews and Arabs.

Musa interceded saying that he would like to add to what Peres has said. He noted that the issue of Jerusalem took up most of the time in the discussions this afternoon. He added that Egypt's stance is completely opposed to the Israeli stance as Peres has explained it, that the figures he gave are not the same as the ones we have, that Egypt's conviction is that the expropriation of land or construction on territory in Jerusalem runs counter to international law, and that Egypt is not in a position to accept Israel's size as Peres explained it.

On Israel's stance refusing to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Peres said that Israel does not threaten Egypt and that there is peace between the two countries and that the same applies to Jordan. He noted that the basic threat to Israel at present comes from Iran and not Lebanon or Syria. He said that the best thing for the Middle East is to be free of weapons of mass destruction or the threat to use them. He said that this can only be achieved if the area is not vulnerable to wars and destruction. In fact, he said, Iran calls for the destruction of Israel and secretly seeks to obtain nuclear weapons.

Musa responded by saying that the matter is not whether a state threatens another. He said that the region is moving toward peace and that this is not the time to talk about war and destruction. He said we are talking about establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and that the way to reach this goal is negotiations to establish such a zone. He noted that Egypt demands that Israel join this process so that the region will be free of weapons of mass destruction or nuclear threats. He noted that there can be no comparison between a nuclear program that actually exists and the mere probability of a program.

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Musa said that Egypt still insists on the importance of Israel's cooperation in establishing the necessary framework to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. He added that Israel's insistence on continuing its policy will affect the climate of the peace process. He noted that the Arab League Council's resolution called for convening an emergency meeting of the Security Council to examine this extremely serious issue. He said that we must continue the peace process and in order to continue it we must ensure a good and proper atmosphere, noting that the Israeli policy does not help secure good and appropriate climate for the peace process.

Musa stressed that Egypt's stance will not change and that it is opposed to the expropriation of land or construction of settlements, be they in closer or greater Jerusalem or in any part of the occupied territories. This is Egypt's firm stance, he said, and we are now discussing with Peres ways of addressing this situation because the continuation of this Israeli stance threatens the general atmosphere. Therefore, we still adhere to our stance on this serious issue and say that it must be dealt with more wisely.

On Israel's failure to comply with its pledges regarding Jerusalem, Peres said: We have not pledged anything regarding Jerusalem. There are points of disagreement and Jerusalem is one of them. We have to negotiate despite the differences and we will not stop because of them.

Musa said that he requested that Israel allow international inspectors to visit the Dimona nuclear reactor.

Newspapers Criticize U.S. Policy on Israel

NC0805095495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-WAFD newspapers have strongly denounced the Israeli measures aimed at judaizing Jerusalem. The two papers have again urged the Arab countries to stand firm against these measures so that the Arabs will not be surprised by Jerusalem being lost overnight.

The two papers have also criticized the U.S. stance on these measures, especially after U.S. Envoy to the United Nations Madeleine Albright's announcement that the Security Council is not the place to discuss Israeli confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem and U.S. Senator Robert Dole's intention to submit a draft resolution to the Congress to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM expresses astonishment at the U.S. statements biased toward Israel and says the best description of Albright's statement is that it is ill-intentioned. It asks: How did the Security Council overnight become an unsuitable place to discuss Israel's usurpation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem?

The paper also asks that if the Security Council is not concerned with discussing such issues, what other issues deserve to be discussed by the council?

The paper recalls the founding of Israel itself by a United Nations resolution and the approval of its membership by a resolution from the Security Council. AL-AHRAM emphasizes that Israel's expansionist policy will cause enormous harm to the peace process and to the U.S. reputation to the Arab public, which is preferred to be friendly with the United States willingly and not by force.

In a similar editorial, AL-WAFD says Israel's decision to expropriate Arab land in Jerusalem is a flagrant challenge to the Security Council resolutions and that it wrecks the Middle East peace process.

The paper calls on the Arab countries to stand against these challenges strongly and decisively because such a stance is an inescapable duty so that Jerusalem will not be lost overnight.

It criticizes the U.S. Administration's stance and silence over Israel's contentiousness within its hearing. The paper says that what adds insult to injury is U.S. Senator Robert Dole's plan to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which means that Washington fully consents to Israel's disgraceful acts.

AL-WAFD urges Washington to act seriously about these Israeli measures because its silence represents an implicit recognition that peace is being undermined.

U.S. Warned Against Military Technology for Israel

NC0705080395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says that Israel's acquisition of more advanced U.S. military technology would further entrench its position toward a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an editorial today, the paper says this hardline Israeli position prevents a solution to the Middle East's problems, and they may even get worse, especially if Israel insists on consolidating its military arsenal and remaining outside the framework of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Growing security fears are prompting the Arab countries to consider all means of boosting their military capabilities so that the military balance in the region will not be further upset, the paper says. Such a development, it adds, can never be in the interest of peace or the confidence-building process in the Middle East, as Israel insists.

AL-AHRAM says Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's current visit to Washington is part of a continued Israeli effort to enhance Israel's military arsenal in order to ensure absolute and qualitative Israeli superiority.

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Writer Views Police Use of Telephone Taps

95LD0050A Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 20 Mar 95 pp 20-24

[Report by Wa'il al-Ibrashi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Telephone tapping is a serious matter involving extremely important prohibitions and precautions. It is a delicate issue. Its purpose is to find the truth by eavesdropping on others. The citizen's freedom is guaranteed under the Constitution. Nevertheless, telephone lines have provided one of the means to uncover many of the crimes that have exploded in our political life. Who are behind these cases and crimes? Where do they lead? This is what we will try to relate in full in the following story.

The extremists hate the late musician Muhammad Abd-al-Wahhab. They have declared him an atheist. Yet, during an investigation, when they are faced with recordings of their telephone conversations, they cite Abd-al-Wahhab's remarks about the voice pitches to deny that their voices are on the recordings. These surprises have emerged in recent cases involving terrorists and extremists, particularly in the al-Mahjub case, the al-Shawqiyun case, and most recently in the case of Lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat.

In the last case, citing a statement by musician Abd-al-Wahhab, al-Zayyat said during the investigation: "Abd-al-Wahhab has said that matching a voice impression is impossible, because a person's voice can be different when he is calm, or angry, or sleepy."

When I asked al-Zayyat about this, he said: "I also said that the voice in the telephone recordings is like mine, and imitating voices is easy. Otherwise, how can you explain what 'al-'Izab Shu' and his band are doing?"

Al-Zayyat added: "Even if the voice was mine, telephone conversations are not incriminating. That is why I agreed to give an impression of my voice to the voice expert."

However, sources of the Supreme State Security Prosecution confirmed the existence of telephone conversations between Muntasir al-Zayyat and Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, a prominent terrorist residing abroad, and other leaders of the extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] abroad. al-Zayyat used to transmit to Abu-Talal, the nom de guerre of Tal'at Qasim, information and news about the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah. The prosecution regarded him as a link between home and abroad and a media official of the extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah at home. I asked al-Zayyat about this. He said: "There are two telephone conversations in which the prosecution says the one on the other side of the line was Tal'at Qasim." I denied this and said it was not him. Yet, the prosecution insisted that it was the voice of Tal'at Qasim. Even if it were the voice of Abu-Talal, the conversations consisted of greetings and regards. I am his lawyer. I have a formal power of attorney from him. Even if he talked to me on the telephone from abroad, this is not a crime.

It often happens that, when recording telephone conversations of some people to uncover a certain crime, the authorities accidentally uncover other crimes. Some 90 tapes, a record number, have been recorded in the Red Sea case, which is still under wraps. It began with a minor incident when two company officials agreed with some agents about an illegal commission for the establishment of some product exhibitions. Telephones were wiretapped. The recorded conversations uncovered a bigger crime, which became known as the Red Sea case. The authorities discovered the existence of agreements between some people and senior officials in the governorate and its towns regarding bribery and commercial land deals. The recording of telephone conversations continued for about six months.

In another case, the Public Property Investigations Department asked the office of the Supreme State Security Prosecution for a permit to wiretap the telephone of a wealthy woman married to a Gulf amir because she was suspected of involvement in the smuggling of jewelry from abroad. Her husband was regarded as a big gold merchant. The recordings uncovered a corruption scandal whose hero is a college dean. The wealthy woman was getting ready for her Bachelor of Arts degree exams in the same college. A deal was struck between the two. When the results of the telephone recordings (six tapes) were submitted to chief prosecutor Usamah Qandil, he gave his permission to continue the wiretapping to learn more about the newly discovered incident of bribery. The two were later arrested. They did not deny that their voices were on the telephone recordings. A Supreme State Security court sentenced each of them to 10 years in prison with hard labor.

What is more peculiar—and this is being revealed for the first time—are telephone recordings in a famous ethics case in which an officer admitted on the telephone that he forged the elections to the People's Assembly in favor of a National Democratic Party [NDP] candidate in Heliopolis. The recordings also revealed the involvement of many police officers in anomalous relations with a female leader of a network.

In the legal reasons on which he based his judgment, the judge said that the telephone recordings did not uncover a crime of prostitution; they uncovered the crime of forgery and the involvement of officers and persons in high positions in relations with a woman. The officer, the judge added, left his work in the election's committee that he supervised and went to the house of the woman, a leader of the network. He telephoned his colleagues from her house to tell them: "We forged the elections in favor of the NDP's candidate."

The officer was transferred to Qina, and the court acquitted the woman.

As for the head of the al-Wayli neighborhood, who was accused of bribery, the court acquitted him after ruling against the admissibility of the telephone recordings in the case. His defense lawyer based his arguments on

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some technical points when he noted that the prosecution preserved a transcript of the tapes on paper, which is inappropriate, as only tapes can be preserved. The defense also discovered that the telephone recording was made several days before a legal permit was secured.

A Supreme State Security court has recently issued a verdict acquitting an official in a Cairo neighborhood, after ruling against the admissibility of telephone recordings. In the legal reasons on which the judgment was based, the court said that the tapes, with the attached transcript, appeared to be distorted and contained frequent unclear, inaudible, or interjecting sentences and remarks, and, thus, cannot be used as evidence. The court acquitted the defendant.

A Cairo criminal court has recently also acquitted Engineer Khudayr, vice chairman of the telecommunications authority, and Ghabbur, agent of the Swedish Erecsson telephone company. In its reasons for the verdict, the court said that the telephone conversation between the two, which was recorded to prove that they agreed on a bribe, did not contain decisive proof of the bribery charge leveled against them.

I asked Counselor Hisham Saraya, first attorney general of the Supreme State Security Prosecution, why most cases that depend on recorded telephone conversations end in acquittal? He replied: "The reason is clear. If the evidence in any case is based mainly and solely on voice recordings, the situation becomes very delicate. This is because the person who commits a crime normally does not express himself clearly. He uses terms that the two sides understand and can be variously interpreted during the investigations. The courts normally do not find the defendant guilty except after the charges are proven beyond any doubt, because any doubt is interpreted in favor of the defendant and not against him. Therefore, to secure a guilty verdict, the conversation between the two sides must be clear, containing explicit remarks about the crime they committed, which is not normally done. Another way is for the recordings to be corroborated by witnesses, confessions, or any other indisputable evidence that a crime was committed. The conversation between the two must be interpreted in a way to prove a crime was committed."

I asked him: "Who gives the permission to make wiretaps?"

Counselor Saraya replied: "Article 95 of the criminal procedures law gave an investigating judge the right to order that telecommunication conversations be monitored or private conversations be taped, whenever this can help uncover the truth. This can take place in all criminal or misdemeanor crimes punishable by imprisonment of more than three months. Justification should accompany the request for wiretapping. The permit is normally granted for not more than 30 days, renewable for other similar period or periods."

He added: "The public prosecution assumes the authority of an investigating judge regarding the permission to make telephone recordings in crimes referred to Supreme State Security courts. These are the crimes that affect state security from within and from abroad, which are listed in the first and second chapters of the second book of the penal code, the crimes of bribery, which are listed in the third chapter, and the crimes of embezzlement of public funds, which are listed in the fourth chapter."

I asked him: "Which departments carry out the telephone wiretapping?"

Saraya replied: "Any legally specialized state agency, such as the Administrative Control Department, the National Security Authority, and the police departments, which include the State Security Investigations Department, the Criminal Investigations Department, and the Public Property Investigations Department. Telephone wiretapping can only take place on the basis of a permit by an investigating judge or the Public Prosecution. These bodies can get the help of anyone they want, provided this takes place under their supervision. In other words, these bodies cannot leave the recording equipment to someone and tell him: Do the recording by yourself and then send us the tape. The person making the recording must be under our supervision. If this person is left alone to do the recording, he would weaken our case."

Focusing more on the technical aspect, Brigadier General Usamah Hajjaj, head of the general directorate of the Transportation and Communications Investigations says: "The telephone investigations' department, with the technical assistance department of the Public Security Authority, records telephone conversations after securing a legal permit. At the same time, they connect the telephone line to the electronic monitoring equipment of the Public Security Authority, which records the telephone numbers, the date, and the time of the calls. The prosecution then faces the defendant with the telephone recordings and the computer tapes of the electronic monitoring equipment.

Some security services have their own control rooms, which are electronically connected to all the Cairo telephone exchanges. Some other security services monitor telephone conversations in a secret room in the main Ramsis telephone exchange center. They connect the telephone lines under observation to computers to record the numbers of the wiretapped telephones being called from abroad. This helps in the identification of the person making the call."

Now what guarantees do we have that recorded telephone and voice tapes are not tampered with or edited? Is there a scientific and legal basis to verify a voice impression just as there is for a finger print?

Lawyer Labib Mu'awwad says: "One must first ensure that the tape, on which a recording is to be made, is clean—that is, no previously recorded material exists on it. The prosecution must make sure that the tape is

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completely clean. A prosecution member must record his voice on parts of the tape to ensure that no one tampers with it."

Mu'awwad admits that this procedure is not followed in all telephone recordings. According to sources of the Supreme State Security Prosecution, the maximum done in this regard is for a prosecution member to record his voice at the beginning of the tape to ensure that the recordings were made on the same tape.

Mu'awwad notes that the best guarantee in telephone recordings is for the voice to be clear. If the tape contained an unclear remark, it would be totally rejected. This is because determining the significance or meaning of an unclear remark or word, such as "I am joking" or the negative "no," which negates anything that comes after it, is impossible. It has become customary in court cases to rule out the admissibility of the entire tape and not only the sentence that contained the unclear term.

Counselor Husni Abd-al-Hamid, former assistant socialist prosecutor, says that much progress has been made in the science and art of making telephone and voice recordings. They can be easily fabricated or produced. The available wiretapping equipment is unfit, and the people supervising the recordings are not qualified in this field.

He adds: "The natural rush among people involved in making the recording and their absolute desire to find evidence and hold onto it lead to performance failure."

Mu'awwad affirms that there is no scientific or legal basis for what is called "voice impression." We do not have specialized technicians to compare a voice impression with the voice on the tape. This science is taught in specialized institutions. Using radio employees to do the job is not sufficient.

Abd-al-Hamid affirms that a voice impression is not accurate. The science is new compared to finger prints. A voice impression is definitely not as accurate as a fingerprint, especially as voices could be similar. It will take time before science can come up with a specific solution.

Counselor Saraya affirms that the prosecution gets the help of technical experts in radio and television to verify a voice impression. They can clearly verify a voice impression like a fingerprint. A voice expert can determine whether a recorded telephone or voice conversation had been edited. A voice impression does not change. It has a scientific basis. "In our investigation," Saraya says, "we ask the voice expert whether a voice impression changes, and he affirms that it does not."

The strange surprise is that there is only one voice expert in Egypt. He is used in all the cases and investigations concerning terrorism, corruption, and bribery. He alone records voice impressions and compares them with other recordings. He alone transcribes telephone and voice recordings. The expert's name is Yusuf Abdallah, a voice expert in the Radio and Television Authority. There is no other one. He is the only expert who checks the recordings in Egypt.

Counselor Saraya says: "The expert takes an oath and is presented to the court as a witness. This is the guarantee. He works under our supervision."

When I contacted expert Yusuf Abdallah, he told me that he is not allowed to make statements and cannot reveal the secrets of his sensitive and important work. When I asked him why is he the only person doing this job?

He said: "There were other voice experts. The Justice Ministry did not pay them on time, so they left. Abdallah, the voice expert, does not have high qualifications. Therefore, defense lawyers, in court, always bombard him with questions about his qualifications, university degrees, and his voice studies to challenge the recordings and voice impressions."

Sources of the Supreme State Security Prosecution stress that sufficient guarantees exist regarding the role of the voice expert. The voice expert formally receives the tapes from a prosecution member who is undertaking the investigation. The expert takes the legal oath in front of him to undertake his task fairly and honestly. Before that, the prosecution member plays back the tapes in the presence of the defendant, who is asked about his recorded voice.

When the prosecution decides it needs a voice impression, a prosecution member takes the defendant to the Radio and Television building where the voice expert records the defendant's voice impression.

However, the problem becomes more complicated when a case depends on telephone recordings and the defendant refuses to make a voice impression. This is his right. No one can force him to do that. What is the solution if no other evidence exists except the recordings? There is no solution. The voice expert is often asked many other questions in court. For example, he is asked: Why are telephone recordings clearer than the recordings of direct encounters made on cassette recorders? The voice expert has always been unable to answer this question in court. He is able to explain the words in telephone recordings but unable to do the same in cassette voice recordings. Does the fault lie in his knowledge or in the equipment?

According to judicial sources, the existence of a single voice expert in Egypt causes a delay in the consideration of cases by the prosecution and the courts. The same sources ask: Why are there no institutions in Egypt teaching voice science and graduating experts in this sensitive and important field? Is it enough to sound high and low letters of the language to determine the voice of a certain person? This is what the voice expert does. He asks the defendant to sound the letter "lam" and compares it with a similar letter in the recordings. Is this considered enough? (There is a department for voice study in the cinema institute).

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In one case, the court was forced to move to the radio building for greater reassurance, instead of depending on the expert. The expert was unable to reach any decisive conclusion regarding a scandalous recording of a woman's voice, which an officer had allegedly made to blackmail her. The court moved to the Misr Studio to arrive at a decisive conclusion, because the officer and the woman denied making the recording. The crucial question was who recorded the tape? Did the woman record the tape to continue her relationship? Or did the officer do it to blackmail her?

A conclusion was reached when the scandalous recording was played. The voice of the officer was higher than the voice of the woman, suggesting that he made the recording. However, the officer's defense lawyer destroyed this evidence by producing an amplifier, which can raise or lower the sound at will.

The al-Mahjub assassination case was one of the major cases in which the court ruled out the admissibility of voice recordings as evidence for technical reasons. In the famous video case of Abdallah al-Sanawi, the court also excluded the recordings.

Nevertheless, wiretaps in terrorist cases have uncovered important and sensational secrets. They uncovered many terrorists' plans and identified their leaders abroad, despite their attempt to use codes and aliases. In some telephone recordings, they used the terms "grapes" for "bombs," "dates" for "bullets," "pencil" for "pistol," "the wedding is over" for "the operation has been carried out," and so forth.

The first time the possibility of counter wiretapping—that is, extremists tapping the telephones of officials and ministers—was raised was in the case of the assassination of Rif'at al-Mahjub. Security elements then suggested that the culprits may have tapped his home and office telephones to learn his movements. Al-Mahjub's personal secretary, Ahmad Thabit, revealed that al-Mahjub had noticed as he was talking on the telephone to his guard that there was clear interference on his home telephone and sensed that a third party was listening in. He thought then that one of his children might have picked up the other telephone, and when he called on him to hang up, he discovered that his son did not pick up the telephone.

[Begin box]

How Do You Find Out Your Telephone Is Tapped?

With the use of a simple device that has become available in the European markets and in small quantities in the Arab markets, it is possible for you now to make sure that your telephone is not tapped. A simple antitapping device is placed inside the telephone speaker. It emits a subdued red light if someone else is listening in on your telephone.

Another device called the Universal Telephone Analyzer [last three words in English] is also available. This analyzer is used to test the energy of the line to determine whether other interfering sound signals (wiretapping) exist.

Telephones can also be equipped with microprocessors [last word in English] to safeguard the status of the lines and uncover any change in them.

Another device is called Reflectometer [last word in English]. It is attached to the telephone line, sending a sound pulse through it. A clean line has known sound pulses. If the pulses change, it means the telephone line is tapped. (This device is the most widespread now in the Arab markets). There are other extremely sophisticated devices, which are planted inside the telephone. They can only be detected by x-ray.

To prevent any wiretapping attempt, press all the telephone buttons when the phone is not in use. This will cut off half the electrical contacts in the telephone and make wiretapping impossible.

Sophisticated telephone sets with specific codes are now available in Europe and in some Arab states. They can automatically discover wiretaps. The special code cannot be easily accessed. [End box]

Al-Azhar University Shaykh Discusses Politics

95LD0033A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 3 Feb 95 pp 34-35, 76

[Interview with Shaykh of al-Azhar University, Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given—first paragraph is AL-MUSAWWAR introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The month of Ramadan has begun. We usher it in with an extensive interview with His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, the shaykh of al-Azhar University. This interview brings to us the fragrances of this eminent month as it takes us through questions and answers covering the Muslim nation's concerns. If fasting creates unity among Muslims, why do we not institute this unity as a policy regarding anything that divides the nation of Muhammad? We begin the interview with occupied Palestine and end with Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, dealing in between with everything now preoccupying Muslims.

[Al-Sa'id] Shim'on Peres recently called for an improvement in relations between religions. Does the religious factor continue to be an underlying aspect of the conflict in the region between the Arabs and Israel?

[Jad-al-Haq] Those who have spoken of religion do not understood the Islamic mentality or perhaps pretend to ignore it. In reality, Islam regulates temporal and religious matters.

In Islam, religion and politics pervade family, personal, and communal relations. Islam in the Koran and the Sunna [the Prophet's sayings and deeds later established as legally binding precedents] make clear that religion is

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woven into every aspect of the life of the Muslim individual and family, and the political life of the community, which is the state, in the region and throughout the Islamic world. Muslims have a well-honed religious sensibility, in the sense that an attack against religion is understood as an attack against everything in life. Love of the homeland is not far from faith in religion. It is said, "Patriotism is based on faith." Perhaps the source of this is what the Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, said when he enjoined the emigration to Medina after the members of the Quraysh Tribe did not accept his call, declared themselves his enemy, and persecuted his Meccan followers who had embraced Islam 13 years earlier. When Muhammad, God bless him and grant him salvation, left Mecca after he had accepted the Kaaba, he said, "You are the place most dear to me. Had your inhabitants not expelled me from you, I would not have left." Thus we see that a Muslim always believes that his homeland is a part, and moreover the center, of his Islam. This applies especially to its holy places. He is commanded to protect them, and he sacrifices for them that which is most dear, namely himself, his children, and his wealth.

Any aggression against the land, God's sanctuaries, and any of the holy places to which one repairs, in this case the al-Aqsa Mosque, its religious endowments, and its sacred precinct—any such aggression pains the souls of Muslims. It compels them to defend these holy places, to accept no alternate to them, and to expose themselves to the weapons that Israel is pointing at the Arab, Muslim people in Palestine.

In the noble Koran, Islam calls upon Muslims to believe in the earlier prophets, including Moses and Jesus, may peace be upon them. It orders Muslims to coexist peacefully with the monotheists who are followers of these two prophets. Moreover, Islam, as the Koran states, teaches its followers that faith is perfected through belief in God's earlier prophets and their holy writs. In the "Chapter of the Cow" in the Koran, God the sublime and exalted states, "The messenger believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his lord. As do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believeth in God, his angels, his books, and his messengers. 'We make no distinction (they say) between one and another of his messengers.' And they say: 'We hear, and we obey: (We seek) thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to thee is the end of all journeys.'" [Koran, 2:285] Any solidarity between Islam and other religions, and between Muslims and the followers of those religions, is more than this. I call for the continuation of peaceful coexistence, as the Koran states, "To you be your way, and to me mine." [Koran, 109:6]

Muslims and Jews

[Al-Sa'id] In other words, any improvement in relations would basically be between the people who embrace these religions. How can relations between the Islamic world and Israel be improved while Israel occupies Arab lands?

[Jad-al-Haq] Therefore, Israel must examine the measures that its politicians have adopted to suppress and persecute the Palestinians, destroy their homes, and chase them from their country where they have lived in peace and security for more than a thousand years and even thousands of years before that, for they are its inhabitants and owners. They were betrayed and attacked from outside their land by oppressive, tyrannical military blocks, which sowed corruption and intransigence. How strange it is that these tyrants and aggressors are calling for peace and demanding that the Arabs, in their current position, be peaceful toward them, even though they have occupied their land and violated its honor and holy places. This call [by Shim'on Peres] is only a call to surrender and hand over everything to the Israeli aggression. Again, I maintain that those who are loudly levelling all these accusations against the Arabs and Muslims have so far failed to understand the Muslims' mentality and ardor for their religion, creed, and homelands.

[Al-Sa'id] Does Islam traditionally permit and approve the establishment of relations with Israel?

[Jad-al-Haq] Relations are always subject to the general circumstances that prevail between countries and peoples. If we apply this to Islam, we find that deference must be given to the Islamic nation's interest and that the other side must fulfill its commitments in this framework. The extent to which these requirements are fulfilled will determine whether it is possible to examine whether or not to establish limited relations with Israel. We read and know that when the Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, emigrated to Medina, he concluded an agreement with all of its citizens, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to cooperate in protecting their city and land. This agreement remained in effect until the Jews abrogated it. Thus, a judgment on this matter is not subject to the element of continuity at all times. Rather, it is shaped according to the circumstances and conditions of the other party's intercourse and the extent to which the establishment of political, economic, or cultural relations serves the Muslim people's interests. In other words, the decisive criterion regarding the establishment of relations is whether they serve the Muslim people's interests. This is common between countries. Relations are based on the interests tied to them.

[Al-Sa'id] Who created terrorism? How can we deal with terrorism to prevent it from spreading?

[Jad-al-Haq] It has been suggested that we are terrorists. We treat crime as terrorism. Crimes everywhere and in every field must be treated according to this description. However, the perpetrators of crimes must be identified when responding to such incidents. No one must be blamed for another's crime. This incites some to feel solidarity with others.

The proverb that must be followed is, "It is better for the imam to err in pardoning than to err in punishing." This is a Muslim proverb. It calls for justice and charity, even

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in dealing with a criminal, so that he is not absorbed completely by crime. In this way, he will not continue his criminal activity. The Islamic nation is moved from within but agitated from without. We must seek out and hunt down these agitators. We must strike their hands and cut off the channels they are using. The speed of communications is influencing what is happening in our country and the countries of Muslims in general. Observation and action are being carried out based on a desire for our regions to remain agitated and unstable in terms of security or ideology. It is most unfortunate that some people are using freedom of speech to incite people through what they write and to disseminate their ideas in a voice so loud as to almost monopolize the arena.

[Al-Sa'id] How then can terrorism be prevented?

[Jad-al-Haq] We must look to the address of terrorism in all of its dimensions. We must use legal channels to curb crime in all of its dimensions through the correction of ideas. The correction must outweigh the spread of crime and its causes, instead of the current seesaw in the balance between the two.

I ask, have the print, radio, and television media disseminated good advice? They foment more than give good advice. They are publicizing only the incidents, which sketch the plans for crimes and speak of crime as if it were a school with teachers and students. The media would do better to present that which is good, moral, and upright, instead of presenting these series, which are only a betrayal, and crimes of all types, without reading the utterance of God, the sublime and exalted, which emphasizes rehabilitation: "Invite (all) to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious." [Koran, 16:125] Has the media taken this path? God addressed the Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, saying, as he conveyed to him his mission: "Prophet! Truly we have sent thee as a witness, a bearer of glad tidings, and a warner—and as one who invites to God's (grace) by his leave, and as a lamp spreading light." [Koran 33:45 and 46] "As a warner" was not stated first. Rather, the basis of rehabilitation is in wisdom and beautiful preaching.

Seizure of Books

[Al-Sa'id] Some claim that the suppression of freedoms and the seizure of some books is heresy and a deviation from the mainstream that contradicts the freedom of opinion guaranteed by Islam.

[Jad-al-Haq] The seizure of books of which you speak is primarily preventative.

[Al-Sa'id] Is Islam so fragile that it fears for itself because of books of this type?

[Jad-al-Haq] Islam is not fragile. However, the adage is that prevention is better than cure. Let me cite an example. If we were to give a child a box of matches to play with, he would burn himself and his house. Here, extinguishing the fire would not be an adequate solution after the fire consumes everything. In other words, we are obliged to keep him from getting the box of matches in the first place. These books are quite similar to a box of matches. They defame religion and disparage Islam's concepts and structures. They create confusion in public opinion and divide the people. We are aware of the young generation's questions regarding many matters, all of which revolve around the bad opinions that are being published regarding the country, religion, public opinion, or peace among the people. Again, I maintain that prevention is better than cure. If those exuding this poison in order to make the people doubt their worship and ideas—if they realized the danger of what they are doing, they would desist and no one would have to oppose them. We are countering crime before it occurs. Islam is preventative.

[Al-Sa'id] Could you comment on the Islamic law experts at the Islamic banks whom some have criticized?

[Jad-al-Haq] What is so strange about there being Islamic law experts at the Islamic banks. Non-Islamic banks—if the expression is permitted—have their legal and accounting experts. It is all a matter of experts and expertise. Moreover, the Islamic law experts working in Islamic banks are more deserving of this appellation, as long as they comply with the precepts of Islam and speak only the truth. I am dismayed that some people are fabricating lies about everything oriented toward reforming humanity and guiding it on the straight path. The critics of the Islamic law experts at the Islamic banks would do better to elucidate the error which is occurring in Islamic religious rulings from the standpoint of Islam.

Shiah and Sunnah

[Al-Sa'id] One might ask why the Shiah is closer to the pulse of the masses, whereas the Sunnah is closer to governments?

[Jad-al-Haq] I believe that this statement has no basis in reality. The matter is not one of the Sunnah or Shiah. Rather, it is one of the rulers' merging with the people and the masses, and their familiarity with what makes them happy and what is noxious to them. Respect for religion is the key to a close, permanent, strong link between the ruler and the ruled. Muslims, as I have said and continue to say, are a people or nation characterized by a well-honed religious sensibility. If their religion is besieged or infringed upon, they become disturbed.

[Al-Sa'id] The visit by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to Egypt evoked the Bosnian tragedy and the international policies of neutrality regarding this problem, policies that have enabled the Serbs to make gains at the Bosnians' expense. Is the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Serbs inconsistent with the continued refusal to lift the ban on the supply of arms to the Bosnian Muslims?

[Jad-al-Haq] The lifting of sanctions on the Serbs by the international authority concerned with the establishment of security in the world was a dangerous decision.

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Moreover, it was an oppressive, unfair decision that has damaged a people that have been persecuted, pursued, displaced, and scattered among the nations. If the Security Council, the holder of power and influence, abandons protection of this weak people, why was it established? Was it established to render the oppressor victorious and to help liquidate the oppressed? Or was it established primarily to push back and repel aggression? Is this equal to last year's authorization of America to invade Haiti to replace the government? Would it have been better to direct those armies, aircraft, and ships to protect and help the Bosnian people, whose land, honor, and security have been violated? I address myself to you who are calling for the restoration of others' human rights: Which of the two is more deserving?

[Al-Sa'id] America now leads the world and is the prime mover of events, whether regarding the passage of Security Council resolutions or the application of the term "human rights" to whomever it deems worthy or the denial of this term to whomever it is dissatisfied with.

[Jad-al-Haq] This is borne out by reality. It is notable that the other strong blocks are in the orbit of America in its capacity as the world's sole superpower. America issues, through the Security Council and other international organizations, any decision it pleases to strengthen its power, magnify its singularity, and impose its dread and power on others. This is inappropriate for a major power. Countries that dump their crops into the ocean while other peoples are starving cannot be viewed as a pioneer in humaneness. Rather, they are a pioneer in something else. The consequences of inequity are fatal. The Third World is striving earnestly and working hard to eliminate the captivity and humiliation into which it fell as a result of colonialism and its residue. It has a god to which it is calling out. They will be victorious, God willing.

Iraq and Kuwait

[Al-Sa'id] There are some who believe that American actions vis-a-vis Iraq are an excessive blow and a display of muscles. Why is there this discrepancy in positions? Why does America not act similarly with respect to Serbia?

[Jad-al-Haq] One who has muscles displays them in the open where he is not exposed to danger. At present, we are totally preoccupied with what is happening in our nation and what is being done by its members. Iraq must protect the people's interest, implement UN resolutions, and not resort to threat again. Otherwise, the problems will be made worse. God speaks the truth in saying, "and make not your own hands contribute to your destruction." [Koran, 2:195] We are one nation. The Arabs must not remain in the vortex of conflicts among themselves. No one will gain from conflicts. I implore God to guide them, and we are with them.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your view following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's existence and borders? What is your view on the continued imposition of the iniquitous, oppressive blockade on the Iraqi people for the fifth consecutive year?

[Jad-al-Haq] I call first upon officials in Iraq to hasten to free the prisoners, regardless of their description, especially the Kuwaitis held against their will in Iraq. This is a necessary prelude in order to calm the people, especially given that Iraq initiated the aggression. Iraq, therefore, can best eliminate all traces of the aggression against Kuwait in a bid to correct matters and eliminate the effects of the aggression from people's minds to prepare them to accept reconciliation and pardon from the other side. At the same time, I call upon international society, with its organizations, to monitor this matter, and to examine the lifting of the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, so that the Iraqi people can continue to live humanely and catch up with humanity, without experience hardship or incurring damage.

Sudan

Minister Warns Uganda Against Interference

EA0505171795 Khartoum SUNA in French 0930 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 5 May (SUNA)—Sudan has warned the Ugandan Government not to make any attempt to infringe on or interfere with its foreign affairs, and said that Sudan is able to defend the integrity of its territory and citizens. This was said in [word indistinct] by Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Salah al-Din said that recent hostile declarations against Sudan made by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in front of a group of supporters in the Ugandan town of Gulu, were direct threats against Sudan and were aimed at transferring the Ugandans' war with the Ugandan opposition to Sudanese soil.

Dr. Salah al-Din stressed precedents by the Ugandan president to interfere in the internal affairs of neighboring African countries, such as Kenya, Zaire, and Rwanda.

Paper Praises Egypt; Urges Talks With Opposition

NC0505103495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 5 May (MENA)—The Sudanese newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM has praised Egypt's political experiment and party plurality. It says the greatest characteristic of the Egyptian regime is its permitting all opposition parties free legal expression, unlike totalitarian regimes, which deny opposition parties the right to political action, forcing them to seek other twisted and illegal ways to express their views, something that harms the country.

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In an article published today, the Sudanese paper, which is not government-controlled, calls on the Sudanese Government to sit down with the Sudanese opposition to discuss and agree on major fateful issues without preconditions. It says this is the solution in which the ordinary Sudanese citizen believes. The paper also calls on the government to exercise self-denial and not view issues narrowly. It criticizes the government's rejection of any accord or reconciliation with the opposition parties, saying that these parties can do the same thing. The paper mentions some opposition party figures inside Sudan who enjoy great rationality and poise, such as al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the al-Ummah Party leader, who has repeatedly declared his rejection of violence as a means of expressing opposition.

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Bahrain

Protester Said Killed as Police End Riot

NC0505195095 Paris AFP in English 1801 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, May 5 (AFP)—A young Bahraini protestor was killed when police broke up a demonstration in a Shiite village in east Bahrain, exiled opposition groups said Friday [5 May].

Nidal Habib Ahmad al-Nashabah, 18, was shot dead in the village of Diraz on Thursday during a demonstration marking the death of another Bahraini, 'Abd-al-Hamid Qasim, the opposition Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain and Movement for the Liberty of Bahrain said.

Witnesses contacted on Friday told AFP there was a demonstration in the village on Thursday night but were unable to confirm the death of the protester.

The Movement said his death brought to 13 the number of demonstrators who have been killed since violent anti-government protests began in Bahrain on December 5.

The international human rights group Amnesty International put the death toll at 12 civilians after the latest incident and called on the government to follow UN principles and instruct security forces to only use weapons as a last resort to save their lives.

Rioting broke out in the Gulf archipelago after the authorities arrested a Shiite dignitary, 'Ali Salman, who was expelled to the United Arab Emirates in January and has since gone to Britain, where he is claiming political asylum.

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Pilgrims Threaten To Hold Anti-U.S. Rallies

NC0805095695 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, May 8 (AFP)—Iranians will hold anti-US rallies in their camps if they fail to make Saudi authorities lift a ban on demonstrations during the annual Muslim pilgrimage which opened here Monday [8 May], a delegate said.

"We are sticking to our decision to protest, but if it's impossible, nobody can prevent us from fulfilling this duty in the camps" set aside for the 69,000 Iranian pilgrims, Iran's Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri told AFP.

Iran insists the demonstration to denounce "pagans" is a duty, while Saudi religious leaders have backed the government's ban saying a rally during the pilgrimage would be heretical.

The Iranian delegate said he hoped an agreement would be reached with Saudi officials to hold the rally.

"I can guarantee that no harm will be done to the ritual," if there is an agreement, said Sheikh Taskhiri, an aide to the head of the Iranian delegation, Sheykh Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshari.

After repeated Iranian vows to hold rallies despite this year's ban, Saudi forces have been on alert for the pilgrimage or hajj which opened Monday with nearly two million Moslems flocking to Mecca and nearby Mina.

As part of security precautions, Saudi authorities have scattered the Iranian pilgrims throughout different camps and posted hundreds of police outside Mohammadi-Reyshari's headquarters.

An Iranian delegate told AFP Sunday that Iranians were "determined to protest," but would drop their plans if the rally threatened a confrontation with Saudi police.

An outlawed Iranian demonstration in 1987 sparked clashes with security forces, leaving 402 people dead, including 275 Iranians, according to Saudi officials. Mohammadi-Reyshari warned Friday that Iranians would hold an anti- US rally on Saturday at holy sites close to Mecca, either Mina or on Mount 'Arafat, but one never took place.

He said the venue had been changed to "preserve the sanctity of holy Mecca" from the presence of security forces.

A delegate at the Iranian headquarters here said the rally would be held Monday if it did not take place on Saturday.

400 Policemen Deployed in Mecca

NC0705062795 Paris AFP in English 2341 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, May 7 (AFP)—Saudi security forces are keeping a close eye on Iranian pilgrims in Mecca to prevent them from holding anti-US rallies that have turned violent in the past.

Around 400 policemen and dozens of armored vehicles with heavy machine guns and water cannon have been deployed in the street where Iranian delegation chief Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshari is staying, an AFP correspondent said.

The Saudi authorities, meanwhile, have scattered the 69,000 Iranian pilgrims in camps throughout Mecca.

Earlier Reyshari had warned that Iranians would hold a demonstration on Saturday [6 May] close to Mecca, either in Mina or Mount 'Arafat, but the correspondent said no rally had been held.

A delegate at the Iranian headquarters in Mecca, contacted by telephone from Dubai, said the rally would be held Monday if it did not take place on Saturday.

Iran may be especially eager to demonstrate this year because of President Bill Clinton's announcement on

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April 30 that Washington would cut all U.S. trade and economic links with Tehran, a Western diplomat in the Gulf said.

"The demonstration has been a regular demand for the Iranians since the 1979 Islamic revolution. It could be stirred up this year by the recent economic sanctions and Washington's attempts to isolate Iran," he told AFP.

Tehran accused Washington of seeking to impose its will on the world through "blackmail" and said it saw confrontation as becoming inevitable.

Interior Minister Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz last Sunday warned that Riyadh would use "all means" to make Iranians and others respect the ban on political rallies, imposed here for the third year running.

"We will be firm and will not allow any threat to the pilgrimage and the security of the holy sites," Prince Nayif said.

Shiite Moslems have traditionally held a rally to denounce "pagans" but since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran it has become an anti-U.S., anti-Israeli and sometimes anti-Saudi protest.

It has sparked clashes between Saudi security forces and Iranian pilgrims, with the most serious taking place in 1987 when 402 people died, mainly Iranians. Riyadh then broke off relations with Iran for three years.

Since the clashes, Saudi authorities have set quotas of 1,000 pilgrims for every one million inhabitants each Moslem country has.

More than one million pilgrims from abroad have joined 750,000 Saudis and foreigners living in the kingdom for this year's pilgrimage which officially begins at the Great Mosque here on Monday, Saudi officials said.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Moslem nation, sent the largest contingent of 120,000 faithful, followed by Pakistan which dispatched 100,000 and Iran, according to official figures.

Around 6,000 Libyan pilgrims are also in Saudi Arabia, including 145 who arrived on a Libyan airliner in violation of a UN flight ban imposed on Tripoli three years ago for its alleged role in the 1988 bombing of a US airliner.

Most of the pilgrims arrived aboard Egypt Air flights sent under a UN compromise.

On Tuesday the faithful will climb Mount 'Arafat, where the prophet Muhammad gave his last sermon. The hajj ends Wednesday when pilgrims take part in 'Id al-Adha prayers and slaughter sheep to commemorate the sacrifice of Abraham.

United Arab Emirates

Police Seize 'Large Quantity' of Narcotics

JN0605150095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Shariqah, 6 May (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates authorities have thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of narcotics, and apprehended nine suspects.

The Emirates News Agency quoted Major 'Ali Ahmad Abu-Hindi, chief of the Counternarcotics Department at the al-Shariqah Police, as saying that the pills were hidden in containers inside two trucks loaded with food supplies. There were 46 containers.

He added that the two trucks traveled from Turkey to Iran and then to al-Shariqah where the drugs were to be shipped from al-Shariqah Port.

He also said the Counternarcotics Department has seized 60 letters sent from abroad. Each letter contained a drug substance that is worth 2,500 dirhams. He said the main suspect in this operation was apprehended after he sold drugs to one of the Counternarcotics men, and after discovering the letters that he was receiving.

Yemen

'Gang' Circulating Counterfeit Money Arrested

JN0705160095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated the following: The security agencies have arrested a gang circulating a large quantity of counterfeit U.S. $100 and Saudi 100 and 500 riyal banknotes inside the country.

The Interior Ministry warns against trading in these counterfeit currencies, which are brought into, and circulated inside the country in a bid to harm the national economy and realize illegitimate profit. It further stresses that it will not show any leniency toward any person found in the possession of counterfeit currencies and that any such persons will receive a legal deterrent punishment.

The Ministry further urges citizens to be cautious when buying or selling U.S. dollars, Saudi riyals, and other currencies. It urges citizens to purchase what they need of these currencies through the licensed banks in the country to guarantee they will not be cheated or fall victim to the groups counterfeiting and circulating these fake currencies and to spare themselves any legal procedures against them resulting from their use of any counterfeit currencies.

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Saddam Reportedly Plans To Reshuffle Cabinet

JN0505170595 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 May 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is preparing to reshuffle his cabinet after a series of setbacks.

In a related development, observers say the appointment of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn as supervisor of the Interior Ministry, which is headed by Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Saddam Husyan's half brother, is a signal that Watban will soon be removed from the ministry.

Saddam Grants Sons Vice Presidential Privileges

NC0605170395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Baghdad have said that Saddam Husayn issued a resolution last week in which he granted his two sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy, the privileges of vice president of the Republic. He granted them the right to supervise public administrations, security departments, and popular organizations representing him. In a secret circular directed to the ministries, Saddam asked all the ministries to present the activities and problems of the ministries to his son 'Udayy, who will then make decisions and take action as he sees appropriate. The various security departments are linked to his second son, Qusayy, who occupies the post of head of the special security departments. Saddam took these actions to tighten his and his family's grip on the government and power, at a time when the ministries, governmental institutions, and the various administrations are suffering from deterioration, collapse, and corruption, in addition their inability to perform their duties and missions.

Regime Arresting Citizens for 'Hostile' Acts

NC0705153195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security agencies of Saddam Husayn's regime raided several homes in Madinat al-Thawrah [a Baghdad suburb] last Friday [5 May] and arrested a number of people on charges of having embarked on acts hostile to the ruling regime. According to eyewitnesses, the arrest campaign coincided with the appearance of graffiti and placards on the walls of homes in the area, denouncing the ruling regime's policy and calling on the people to overthrow it.

Reports Claim PKK Fighters Returning to Positions

NC0505160395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, 3,000 of the fighters of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK], who withdrew from their bases before the Turkish military operation started, have started to reassume their former positions.

Opposition Reports Regime Raid on Kurdish Areas

NC0705161195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1510 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 'Aflaqite regime's helicopters the day before yesterday bombarded the areas of Qarahlu, (Bakirbajaman), Jarah, and (Qaytawan) in the city of Chamchamal for one hour. The barbarian 'Aflaqite bombardment caused severe damage to the homes and property of villagers and displaced scores of families living in these areas.

In the afternoon of the same day, four helicopters of the bloody regime in Baghdad raided the above-mentioned positions and fired long-range rockets at them, causing further extreme damage.

PUK Positions Reportedly Attacked by KDP Troops

NC0705162195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1510 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An authorized source in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has told today's issue of KURDISTAN NWAY that the Kurdistan Democratic Party's [KDP] claims that PUK troops set up two new military posts on (Jabal Nafir) and (Shagawar) are unfounded. The same source added that the KDP is trying to raise this matter to cover up its attempts to build new military routes in the region to beef up its forces.

Meanwhile, the KDP leadership continues its malicious attempts to create various problems and incidents with a view to violating the cease-fire declared in Kurdistan and complicating matters, thus pushing things toward setting off the internal fighting once again. In this regard, at 0400 today, a KDP force attacked PUK troops on the (Shagawa) hills in Irbil. Our heroic peshmerga troops repulsed the attack and inflicted heavy casualties on the attacking force.

In another development, another KDP force at 1400 today attacked PUK peshmerga positions in (Barayyan). At 1430 today, the KDP artillery started to shell our troops in (Barayyan), (Pardashalu), and (?Talayan) valley.

Paper Ridicules 'Desperate' U.S. Moves

JN0505125095 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 5, INA—An Iraqi paper has ridiculed the U.S. desperate attempts to play havoc with Iraq security.

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AL-THAWRAH newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party referred in its today article to the C.I.A request to the Congress to allocate 15 million dollars to finance its operations against Iraq.

The U.S. Administration has gone further in its political dreams when it recruited more than 30 states besides the embargo and the chapter of vandalism and the media propaganda but it failed to undermine will of the Iraqis and their patience and jihad, the paper confirmed.

It stressed that the agents on which the U.S. Administration pinned hopes to achieve anything in favor of the American-Zionist designs against Iraq could only be described as traitors and outlaws.

BABIL on Aims of Recent Albright Gulf Tour

JN0705092995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—BABIL has said that Madeleine Albright, during her recent tour of certain states in the region, tried to instigate those state against Iraq. She also tried to impose the U.S. wish to prolong the blockade and to pressure Arab states into signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In an article today, the paper says that the U.S. Administration has come to feel that it is losing its credibility and ability to control world public opinion. Therefore, it feels that it is necessary to send its permanent UN envoy to pressure the concerned states into postponing, even if temporarily, the question of lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq by warning them of turning a blind eye to the instigation of domestic problems.

The paper adds that the United States and the Zionist entity want permanent submission by certain Arab countries and from them not to consider their own interests no matter how basic they are.

BABIL says that Iraq's choice is to adhere to its national unity, sovereignty, and national decisionmaking, and to confront the blockade with a counteroffensive that has so far yielded a great number of strategic projects.

The paper stresses that the leader who said "no" to U.S. arrogance is the same leader who, along with his entire people, said "no" to U.S. Resolution 986, which was issued under UN cover.

UN File Said Taken From 'Aziz; al-Sahhaf To Visit UN

NC0705151195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned from informed sources in the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad that the file of the United Nations and the Security Council has been taken from Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. These sources said that this file has been taken from Aziz, who had been in charge of it throughout the past five years, after reports on differences in views between him and Saddam Husayn over Security Council Resolution 986, which allows the sale of limited quantities of Iraqi oil for humanitarian purposes. These sources said that the file has been assigned to a committee chaired by Saddam's son-in-law and includes as members Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf; Riyadh al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid, head of the Military Industrialization Authority. The sources said that the new committee decided to send al-Sahhaf to the United Nations Headquarters on 10 May before the Security Council reviews the UN sanctions instead of 'Aziz, who used to do this mission.

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Rabin: 'Very Good' Meeting With Clinton

TA0805053295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 8 May 95

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabin and Clinton spoke for some 75 minutes last night at the White House. The prime minister defined the talk as very good. The two did not at all discuss the issue of land expropriation in Jerusalem, but they did extensively discuss ways to promote the negotiations with Syria. Prime Minister Rabin later briefed Israeli reporters:

[Begin Rabin recording] Naturally, we also focused on the Syrian issue. It is clear that there are difficulties with the Syrians, and I hope they will be resolved as a result of the earlier meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his aides in which we sought ways to resume the talks on the security arrangements between the military men in the presence of our ambassador and the Syrian ambassador in Washington.

As far as I know, a senior Syrian representative is expected here in the middle of this month. This will probably be the foreign minister, and there will be a U.S.-Syrian dialogue in order to clarify how far we can go on the issue of security arrangements. [end recording]

The prime minister made one thing clear to President Clinton on the issue of the security arrangements: Israel says there is room for equality regarding the peace process, but—and this is important—there is no room for equality in the geographic aspect of the security arrangements, which is a very determined Syrian demand. There will be no Israeli concession on this issue, as the prime minister presented it in his conversation with the Israeli reporters.

Part of the Rabin-Clinton conversation was held tete-a-tete, and part of it was attended by Ambassador Rabinovich on our side with a member of the U.S. National Security Council sitting next to the President. Among the issues discussed was foreign aid, targeted by the Republicans in Congress, which upsets the two leaders. Mr. Rabin would not say whether he disclosed, at least to the U.S. President, the border to which he would be willing to withdraw on the Golan. The Pollard issue was also raised, but the prime minister would not elaborate on this either. [passage omitted]

The Israeli reporters asked Rabin about the initiative by senators, including one of the leading Republican candidates for president, Bob Dole, to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In his reply, Rabin recalled that when he was ambassador in Washington he heard Gerald Ford, who was then House minority leader before becoming president, make a similar promise. Years later, when Rabin had become Israel's prime minister, he traveled to the United States in September 1976 and met the new President Gerald Ford in the White House. Rabin asked: Mr. Ford, what about that promise you made before the elections regarding Jerusalem? Ford replied: You know, things look different from the oval office in the White House.

More Land Expropriations Planned Near Jerusalem

TA0505110195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 5 May 95 pp 10, 11, 29

[Article by Tzvi Singer and Dov Elboim: "Olmert: Soon There Will be More Expropriations]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The land expropriation decided upon this week reopens the struggle over land and returns the battle over Jerusalem from the corridors of international diplomacy to the streets. Several months ago—as a result of the rioting surrounding construction on Hatamar Hill, the government decided to freeze construction in the Greater Jerusalem settlements; however, in practice, and occasionally in secret, the government supports land expropriations and construction efforts both in Jerusalem as well as the West Bank.

Thus, for example, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert this week disclosed that he may initiate additional expropriations of even larger tracts of land outside Jerusalem's municipal area. Olmert said that he had recently presented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with a plan for the expropriation of large tracts of land on the way to Ma'ale Adumim. The construction of several thousand housing units would in effect link Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem.

Olmert has presented another plan to Rabin which proposes expropriating land near Pisgat Ze'ev, beyond the Green Line, in order to strengthen the territorial contiguity between the neighborhood and the city itself. All these lands belong to Arabs; however, the method of registering ownership is a cause of some confusion.

"There is no alternative to linking Ma'ale Adumim with Jerusalem. This is a reality that the government will be forced to accept," Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert asserts, adding: "I asked Rabin to confiscate land in several more districts, which I prefer not to specify at the moment in order to prevent a public 'outcry.'"

Olmert asserts that he has the backing of the Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, and that the fleshing out of Jerusalem has been discussed in numerous meetings he held with cabinet ministers over the past few months. "I have many talks with Rabin on this matter. These discussions have not been reported or made public." Olmert's plans also receive the active support of 'Uzi Vecsler, the former head of the Jerusalem Development Authority, who was recently appointed head of the Israel Lands Administration. "We share a close working strategy on these matters," Olmert points out.

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Housing and Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer sounded even more determined than Olmert, a Likud official, this week. "The problem is not land," Ben-Eli'ezer told us, "the battle over Jerusalem has begun, and let no one tell you otherwise. We should not be ashamed to state that the Labor party and Meretz clearly and unequivocally disagree on this issue. Each party was elected on the basis of its own platform. After the 1967 war, the government decided on the reunification of Jerusalem—and there is national consensus on this. We do not have to decide in 1995 whether or not Jerusalem is ours. Jerusalem is ours and we will do whatever we please there and exercise our authority there any way we want. The first side to lose patience and show weakness with regard to this matter will lose. The Arabs already decided what they want a long time ago. We need only to continue believing that Jerusalem is ours and that will be the end of the story. [passage omitted]

Despite the harsh remarks made this week by the Meretz ministers, they seemed to adopt a different tone than when furiously protesting the land expropriations on Hatamar Hill and Efrata in the past. Jerusalem ultimately constitutes an entirely different matter, even for Meretz.

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer: "On the practical level, we have to explain to Meretz that plans to build an additional 8,000 housing units for Arabs are already in the works. From the political aspect, Meretz should be told the plain truth: even Meretz is politically incapable of declaring its readiness to give up Jerusalem. I do not believe that the Meretz ministers can backtrack now after all those statements by Yosi Sarid who said that the indivisibility of Jerusalem is unquestionable.

Beilin Against Land Move; Backs U.S. Embassy Move

TA0705063895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says that land confiscation in Jerusalem is a legitimate but unwise move. Beilin says land confiscation is a problematic tool which in the past we have used only for vital public needs. Its use now could unnecessarily damage the political process.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the deputy foreign minister said he supports the efforts to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Any attempt to harm the political process as a result of this will be totally illegitimate.

Likud Supports Moving U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem

TA0705163195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 7 May 95

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Me'ir Einstein, in Jerusalem—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Do you not think that there is prudence in Minister Shulamit Aloni's position—and I assume she has the backing of other ministers—that while support for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is widespread, it would be wiser not to do so now in the midst of the peace process?

[Netanyahu] First, I respect Minister Aloni, who at least says what she thinks, but the prime minister has to decide whether his position reflects that of Meretz—which in this case represents the PLO stand—or that of the large majority of the Israeli people, who want a real political expression of Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel.

All Israeli governments, whether Labor, Likud, or unity governments, have strived for and supported the position that a capital means that expressions of sovereignty, such as embassies, must be located in Jerusalem.

I served in the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Although New York from many points of view is a better place to live, we could not locate the embassy in New York because the United States decided that its sovereign capital was Washington.

What we must therefore do is insist on the traditional position of all previous governments and exploit this opportunity to transfer the United States Embassy to Jerusalem. The prime minister must support that position and not have any reservations about it.

[Einstein] But do you not think the initiative is strongly influenced by the approaching election campaign in the United States? The proposal was not initiated by the administration, it was raised by somebody who wants to become president.

[Netanyahu] It was raised not only by him, but also by Senator Inouye, who is known as being deeply concerned about Israel's fate and its welfare. It is, therefore, supported by Democratic Senator Inouye and Republican Senator Dole, who are leading a move which has the support of almost the entire Senate.

First of all, it is not an election promise because they are talking about legislation, which will commit Dole if he is elected and Clinton if he is re-elected. In other words, it does not involve futile promises. I cannot agree to a situation whereby the U.S. Congress will be more pro-Zionist than the Zionists. That is an absurd situation.

In other words, I demand that the prime minister lead the Jewish people and the friends of the Jewish people, who finally want to see what should have taken place 47 years ago when the state was established: The establishment of foreign embassies here. I have no doubt that moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will bring in its wake the relocation of the other embassies.

Rabin Afraid Embassy Move Will Replace U.S. Aid

TA0705191095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin said in Washington tonight he would be pleased about any

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embassy relocating to Jerusalem, but he does not want the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to the capital to replace further U.S. foreign aid. Yitzhaq Rabin said the PLO knows the Israeli position on Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a briefing to Israeli correspondents, Rabin stressed that he does not want to push Jews into the Jewish Quarter and Silwan in East Jerusalem, but that neighborhoods like Ramot in northern Jerusalem and Gilo in the south have to be expanded. He said that 400 apartments for Arabs will also be built in the Gilo area.

On the talks with the Syrians, he said that Israel welcomes the U.S. involvement due to the circumstances created by the Syrians, but secret meetings between the two sides are vital to achieving an agreement. Yitzhaq Rabin will confer with President Clinton at the White House tonight.

Ministers Rubinstein, Sarid Support Embassy Move

TA0705094495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that he supports the move of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and does not understand what all the fuss is about, seeing that the embassy is to be moved to West Jerusalem.

Minister Yosi Sarid says this is a completely domestic American issue. The Americans are responsible enough to examine the pros and cons of this move and its ramifications on the political negotiations.

Peres on Cairo Trip, Syrian Track, U.S. Embassy

TA0705063695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Mr. Peres, do you believe you will be able to make progress in this round of talks of the Israeli-Palestinian Supreme Liaison Committee in Cairo with the issue of land confiscation in East Jerusalem as a backdrop?

[Peres] What does this issue have to do with the discussions of the committee, seeing that the committee will not discuss the Jerusalem issue?

[Einstein] The Palestinians, however, are making this linkage.

[Peres] What is the point of such a linkage, to put an end to the discussions? I have not heard anything about it.

[Einstein] Do you assume, however, that in the meeting you will hear complaints about this issue?

[Peres] Perhaps.

[Einstein] Do you not think it will cast a shadow on the discussions?

[Peres] Look, we will have to overcome a lot of difficulties. This is one of the difficulties along the way; it is not the end of the matter and is not the only difficulty.

[Einstein] Do you think we can complete the negotiations with the Palestinians by 1 July?

[Peres] I do not know from where you got the information according to which it is impossible to complete the negotiations. Here Palestinians are saying one thing, and there political sources are saying another thing. Look, we are doing everything possible to complete the negotiations by 1 July, as we have promised to do. This does not mean that the implementation will be carried out in one stage, because it can be done in several stages, as was our original intention. In several areas, however, considerable progress has been made. We are making efforts to adhere to the timetable to which we committed ourselves.

[Einstein] What are the main difficulties at the present time?

[Peres] There is actually one difficulty, namely a redeployment that will provide maximal security. This is the key issue. I believe it is possible to reach arrangements on other issues.

[Einstein] You believe, then, that it will be possible to reach an agreement by 1 July, even if the implementation is held up?

[Peres] We undertook to reach an agreement between 15 June and 1 July and are doing everything possible, although not everything depends on us. If the Palestinians, for example, agree on many things before that date the agreement will be completed earlier. The negotiations are quite intensive, and I hope we will be able to achieve progress.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, during your visit to Cairo you will also meet President Mubarak. Will you discuss the Syrian track with him?

[Peres] In our meetings with Mubarak we usually raise all issues, so I assume this issue will also be raised.

[Einstein] YEDI'OT AHARONOT today writes that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' hurried to leave his Cairo hotel at the end of the Arab League foreign ministers' conference after he heard that you were slated to stay in the same hotel.

[Peres] This is entirely his loss.

[Einstein] Would you like to meet him?

[Peres] What do you mean would I like to meet him? You know, this is not a personal issue. If I had to prepare a list of the people I would like to personally meet I do

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not know how it would look. I believe that the negotiations should be upgraded to the foreign ministers level. There is nothing personal here. The fact that he left the hotel only underscores the Syrian spoiled-brat attitude and inexplicable position. It is very difficult to deal with this position. After all, it is Israel rather than Syria that has to carry out extremely decisive steps.

However, if this is what he wants, so be it. This hotel will simply have one more available room. What can we do about it?

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, what do you think about the U.S. Senate initiative to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

[Peres] Look, we made a decision regarding Jerusalem. We are not the U.S. Congress, rather the Israeli parliament. For me the Israeli parliament decision is the decisive one, and it is a fact that all official ceremonies are held in Jerusalem. When President Clinton came, he addressed the Knesset in Jerusalem. We are conducting a very serious struggle to ensure the future of Jerusalem, regarding which there are no differences of opinion between us. We are doing this wisely and gradually, but always looking in the same direction.

[Einstein] Do you believe that such a decision could torpedo or damage the peace process?

[Peres] I do not want to criticize or approve a decision that is American rather than Israeli.

Peres Briefs Cabinet on Palestinian 'Progress'

TA0705090595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet session in Jerusalem has ended. The session was chaired by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who asked the ministers not to publicly address the issue of land confiscation until Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returns from the United States. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the foreign minister gave an upbeat report on progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Peres will depart on a two-day visit to Cairo shortly. In his meeting with President Mubarak, the foreign minister will emphasize that the harm done to Arab-owned land regarding Jerusalem land confiscation has been exaggerated.

The cabinet was also told that the Americans are reporting progress in various aspects of the contacts with Syria, but that no such progress has been reported by the prime minister.

The chief of staff briefed the cabinet about the katyusha attack in the north over the weekend.

Peres Comments on Casablanca Conference

TA0705153895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has criticized those who have reservations about the Casablanca conference, including Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the foreign minister said in the cabinet meeting: I have heard stupid claims about Casablanca, as though the Arabs were in love with us before and now that has changed. The foreign minister added that Israel and the Palestinians are close to summing up the negotiations on election procedures in the territories.

At the meeting Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer reported on land seizures in Jerusalem. According to the data, some 340 dunams will be expropriated in Ramot, 30 percent belonging to Jews, 15 percent to Arabs, while the ownership of the rest is unclear; in Har Gilo, some 200 dunams will be confiscated; and in Har Homa 1,850 dunams have already been expropriated, of which 1,400 dunams belong to Jews and only 400 dunams to Arabs.

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Foreign Minister Returns, Views Arab League Session

JN0705163095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has asserted that the importance of the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers lies in emphasizing the Arabism of Jerusalem and that it is an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. The terms of reference that govern the status of Jerusalem are the same terms that govern the negotiating process, namely, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, he added.

Speaking to the Jordanian News Agency upon his return to Amman last night after taking part in an emergency session in Cairo, the foreign minister said: The meeting was an opportunity to demonstrate a unified Arab position. The purpose of this is to caution against the threats posed by the Israeli measures to the peace process. This position also underlines the need for immediate intervention by the international community to save the peace process, which is threatened by Israel's expropriation of Arab land in Jerusalem.

Al-Kabariti said the conferees adopted a unanimous decision to task Morocco, since it is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and the United Arab Emirates, which is the chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council, with adopting the necessary measures to have the Security Council convene. France has called a Security Council session. Al-Kabariti hoped that no nation will use the veto to prevent the Security Council from meeting, so the Arabs may raise this issue before the world community and the Security Council. Thus, the Security Council will be able to assume its responsibilities toward the holy city.

Regarding Jordan's position on the issue of Jerusalem and the holy shrines, al-Kabariti said it is a well-known and historic position that upholds Arab rights to Jerusalem and the holy shrines. He added: Jordan has repeatedly warned of the dangers of any attempts to alter the demographic and geographic features and status of Jerusalem, noting the excavations that have been carried out under walls and holy shrines. Currently, there are excavations under the al-'Umariyah school. He said this measure is serious, adding that Jordan has made intensive efforts to halt these measures.

Al-Kabariti added that Jordan has repeatedly warned against delaying negotiations about the final status of Jerusalem to the final stage of the negotiations. He said this happened in line with the Oslo agreement. He hoped that the Palestinian brothers will be able to move to the stage of final negotiations immediately so that sensitive issues may be dealt with. These issues, which include settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, and borders, have started to threaten the Palestinian-Israeli track.

U.S. Urged Not To Veto Anti-Israeli Moves in UNSC

JN0805074195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 May 95 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Unifying the Arab Stand Against Israeli Measures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remarks made by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti when he received the ambassadors of the two cosponsors of the peace process and France reflect the essence of the Jordanian stand—a stand based on the constants of Jordanian diplomacy vis-a-vis the Palestine question, particularly the question of Jerusalem.

The foreign minister told the ambassadors of the three countries, which are all permanent members of the Security Council, that it is necessary to intervene actively to halt the illegal Israeli measures in conformity with the letter and spirit of the agreements that have been concluded and the resolutions of international legitimacy pertinent to the Palestine question in general and Jerusalem in particular.

Such favorable intervention by the Security Council would nurture the peace process and protect it from any fresh stumbling. Furthermore, such intervention would reactivate the Security Council's responsibility towards this question and enhance the credibility of this ranking international body.

This Jordanian position falls in line with the position embraced by the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting, which decided that the issue of Jerusalem is a pivotal Arab cause, emphasized the Arab identity of Jerusalem and the need to safeguard the rights of its people and preserve its holy shrines, and declared it an integral part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967, as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 242.

Jordan's active participation in the Arab League Council meetings and reiteration of the constants of its position, which is compatible with the pan-Arab position, was a significant contribution to reuniting the Arab stand not only towards Jerusalem, but also on the Israeli measures bogging down the peace process—a position the Israelis fully realize is highly important.

We hope the Security Council will convene shortly to discuss the question of Israel's confiscation of Arab land in the holy city of Jerusalem and adopt a position that conforms to the principles of international legitimacy safeguarded by this council. At the same time, we hope that the United States will transcend its abashed position criticizing this Israeli measure, which is destructive to the peace process, and refrain from using its veto power against what the world deems an illegitimate and unacceptable Israeli measure.

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'Informed Source' Reports 'Chill' in U.S. Ties

JN0805095095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 8 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan has refused to change its stand on the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which is in line with the positions of the remaining Arab states.

An informed source told AL-MAJD that the prime minister rejected a request in this regard made by Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative to the United Nations, during the latter's visit to Jordan. Albright requested that Jordan change its stand, which approves the extension of the NPT for only 25 years and provides that the NPT be reviewed every five years.

The source added: Albright, who visited Jordan for this purpose, was amazed by Jordan's adherence to its stand, and by its determination not to break ranks with the remaining Arab states, which reject an indefinite extension of the NPT as long as Israel refuses to join it.

The informed source went on to say: The position on the NPT was not the only point of disagreement between the prime minister and Albright registered when the two met on Wednesday [3 May]. Other points of disagreement concerned Israel's confiscation of hundreds of donums of land in Arab Jerusalem. Albright argued that the UN Security Council is not the proper venue for discussing this problematic issue, whereas the prime minister stated that the Jordanian position would fall in line with the views of the Arab League Council, which could decide to refer the issue to the UN Security Council. The prime minister added that Jordan cannot disagree with any such decision by the Arab League Council.

Concluding, the informed source said: This position by the prime minister could mark the beginning of a chill in Jordanian-U.S. ties in favor of enhanced ties with Israel [as published] and Europe, particularly since it has become clear to the Jordanian policymakers that Washington has neither the desire nor the will to aid Jordan, and given the fact that the "checkbook diplomacy" is no longer acted upon, as Senator Mitch McConnell, chairman of the U.S. Senate's Appropriations Committee, has said.

Columnist Terms U.S. Aid Offer 'Humiliating'

JN0805111995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 May 95 p 6

[From the "Sunday's Economic Pulse" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "U.S. Takes Jordan for Granted"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is evident that the United States is taking Jordan for granted. It found no justification to extend to Jordan a meaningful financial aid to enable the country to face its huge economic difficulties resulting from peace with Israel, trade sanctions against Iraq, Arab aid cut off, and the costly accommodation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons over the last five decades.

It is true that American President Bill Clinton came over to Amman, addressed the Parliament and made his solemn pledge to help Jordan and not to let it down, which at least part of the Jordanian people wanted to believe, but nothing so far materialised.

It is not our business to assign blame to the democratic administration, the Republican Congress, or the Israeli lobby. We are not part of the internal politics of America and we don't want to be. What matters is that America did not honour its pledges and seems not to have the intention or the will to make good on its promises to Jordan in the near future.

On April 4, Lynn Davis, undersecretary of Defence for international security affairs, presented the administration's assistance budget for fiscal year 1996 to the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee. The budget calls for $5.24 billion to assist the Middle East peace process.

Looking at the breakdown of this amount we find that 57.3 percent will go to Israel alone, and 39.2 percent will go to Egypt. Thus, the two states that made peace 16 years ago will receive 96.4 per cent of the total amount allocated for the whole region.

What then would be the share of Jordan out of the remaining amount? The American official who represents the American administration, and in particular the Defence Department, admits that assistance for Jordan plays a key role in America's efforts to promote peace, by aiding Jordan's economy and building public support for Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel. He also recalled that President Clinton promised to seek forgiveness of Jordan's official debt to the United States when Jordan ended its state of war with Israel in July 1994.

After this preamble, the undersecretary went on to declare that "we are proposing for financial year 1996, $7.2 million in economic assistance and $30 million in military assistance."

As far as the economic aid of $7.2 million is concerned, we don't know how this petty cash will help Jordan overcome the present recession, compensate for the loss of Iraqi market, and bear the burdens and risks of peace and the painful adjustment that goes with it.

The so-called military assistance of $30 million is explained by Mr. Davis in a humiliating manner. The objective, he says, is to enhance the Jordanian Armed Forces ability to maintain security along its borders and help Jordan prevent infiltration and cross- border attacks against Israel from opponents of the peace process. Funds will be used to purchase vehicles, night vision equipment, tactical radios and maintenance support to achieve the above- mentioned objective. In other words, even the token amount allocated to Jordan must be spent to protect Israeli security.

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I am not known to be anti-American, or an opponent of peace with Israel, but if that is the case, Jordan should reevaluate the entire situation, at the levels of both the government and the people, including peace supporters like myself. This sort of American humiliation should not be accepted. Other options must be available to us in charting our future and shaping our attitudes.

Opposition Parties Condemn U.S. Trade Ban on Iran

JN0705093495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 May 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jordanian] opposition parties yesterday issued a statement on the U.S. decision to impose economic sanctions on Iran. The statement said that the fact that the U.S. Administration has once again resorted to the weapon of blockades and economic sanctions against Iran emphasizes the American aggressiveness against the Arab and Islamic nation and against the peoples of the world and its attempts to boost its role as the fascist policeman of world peoples.

The statement goes on to say: The Jordanian opposition parties would like to voice their satisfaction at the Jordanian position rejecting the imposition of the blockade on Iran. At the same time, they condemn and denounce Bill Clinton's decision to impose a trade blockade against the Iranian people. They also reject the policy of arrogance, haughtiness, and disregard for all international charters and norms and human rights that is being practiced by the United States against our Arab and Islamic nation with the aim of humiliating it and starving it to death.

The parties called on Arab and Islamic countries to reject this decision and abstain from implementing it. They also called on the Iranian Government to turn over a new leaf of good relations with Iraq and lift the blockade against it in order to help it overcome its ordeal and bolster its steadfastness against the American conspiracy against our nation.

The statement was signed by the following parties: The Islamic Action Front, The Pan-Arab Action Front, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Constitutional Jordanian-Arab Front Party, and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Ex-Minister Rejects Palestinian Confederation

95AA0138A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Apr 95 pp 24-25

[Interview with Dr. Abdallah al-Nusur, former foreign minister and chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs' committee, by Yasir Abu-Hilalah in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Abdallah al-Nusur is a well-known figure in Jordanian politics. He occupied various important posts, including minister of planning and minister of foreign affairs. He now serves as chairman of the foreign affairs' committee in the Jordanian Parliament. The importance of interviewing him on the latest developments in the peace process, the internal situation, and Jordanian-Palestinian relations can be viewed against this background.

[Abu-Hilalah] After Jordan has signed the peace treaty and the Palestinians signed the Oslo agreement, how do you view the future of the relations between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples?

[Al-Nusur] We must distinguish between relations between two peoples and two entities. The Jordanian position on the relationship between the two entities is clear. No type of federation or confederation can be considered until the Palestinians establish an entity on their independent soil. We have a consensus in Jordan about this. Every political or ideological party thinks that there is no future without a clear form of coordination or union between the two entities. However, if you meant the relationship between the two peoples, this relationship is organic, as the two are attached. They must be considered as one bloc in any future relationship.

[Abu-Hilalah] Some international circles think that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation can be established without the existence of a Palestinian state. It could be established with a Palestinian self-rule authority or something like this, but not a state. What are the dangers of establishing a confederation with a state that has no sovereignty over its territory?

[Al-Nusur] We reject the principle of establishing a union with people without territory, because this means displacing the Palestinian people, or transferring them to Jordan. Confederation in Latin means partnership between two parties. The word partnership in Arabic means the participation of more than one party. Therefore, a Palestinian entity must exist to establish a confederation with the Jordanian entity.

[Abu-Hilalah] In the light of the current international situation, is there a possibility for the establishment of a Palestinian entity or state, in your opinion?

[Al-Nusur] I think that the establishment of a Palestinian entity is possible.

[Abu-Hilalah] Following the meeting of the quadripartite committee on the refugee issue, what success, in your opinion, can the Arabs achieve on this issue?

[Al-Nusur] The declaration of principles and the Jordanian agreement are clear. They talk about facilitating the return of the refugees. Israel, as usual, does not honor its signature and does not abide by bilateral or international decisions. It is famous for that. The Israeli foreign minister came to the meeting and tried to evade the issue, hoping time will kill it. As usual, a few days before

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he arrived in Amman, the Israeli foreign minister said that allowing the refugees to return is considered a first step toward Israel's suicide, meaning that Israel thinks returning the refugees is like committing suicide. Therefore, I am not confident that Israel will be happy about the return of the refugees and will do its utmost to obstruct it.

[Abu-Hilalah] Does this mean that the Jordanian-Israeli treaty and the Oslo agreement will not succeed in this respect?

[Al-Nusur] I cannot say that they will not succeed, because many provisions have been successful, while others have not. The occupied strip of Jordanian territory has been returned. This is not an issue for speculation. Some provisions are possible and others are not. Considering that the return of the refugees is a future issue, we might score a big success on it.

[Abu-Hilalah] Although U.S. Secretary of State Christopher has said during his visit that Jordan signed the treaty with Israel not because it expected aid, he offered assurances regarding U.S. aid to Jordan. The Jordanian people, however, think that the United States must provide aid to us. There is also a prevailing view in the world that peace will bring economic and political stability, and so forth. Now, considering that the aid was less than expected, will the peace process be successful?

[Al-Nusur] I do not accept the remark that the Jordanian people are exerting pressure to get the price of peace, because this would mean that Jordan's step was extortionist, opportunistic, and materialistic, disregarding all the other facts that led Jordan to sign the peace treaty. Jordan did not embark on peace to receive money or to have its debts canceled. However, Jordan was hoping that, in conjunction with the peace process—which has justifications other than this justification—the peoples in the area can achieve a different quality of life than they were used to under the regime of wars and hardships that exhausted Arab resources. A peace treaty is usually not a process crowned by signatures. The signing of treaties is easy and requires nothing. Peace, however, can only be viable, permanent, and stable if it were useful and if the alternative is bad. It is not in the interest of any of the parties to feel that their needs are met by the peace process and that, without it, they will experience economic hardships. I would like to discuss the issue of American assurances. The reader must make a distinction between the American system of government and the familiar systems of government in our Arab world. In the United States, the decision-maker is not Clinton alone. Anyone who does not know how they make decisions in the United States will not understand the story. President Clinton must intervene with Congress. It was a house committee that refused to cancel our debts. There is a possibility that some senators will intervene. They asked for a Congressional session to review the decisions of the appropriations' committee. Those who make the decisions, therefore, are the representatives, senators, and the government.

[Abu-Hilalah] Some people think that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has brought Jordan into an Israeli alliance. Some scenarios suggest that an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian alliance could be established in the future. In your opinion, can such an alliance be established, particularly against the background of Arab isolation and the nervousness of many Arab parties?

[Al-Nusur] The question of alliances between Israel and some states is possible, but not between Israel and Jordan. We in Jordan have read [Egyptian writer Muhammad Hasanayn] Haykal's articles and heard and read statements attributed to some officials on this matter. Our position is clear. Under no circumstances will we change our Arab color and affiliation. Jordan will never join an alliance against an Arab country or Arab aspirations. This is impossible to imagine. I do not think that this has crossed the mind of any Jordanian leader.

[Abu-Hilalah] Israel from time to time accuses Jordan of sheltering the Palestinian opposition. The Israeli chief of military intelligence made the latest of such accusations. He said that Hamas is an extension of an organization in Jordan. What is your opinion about the accusation that Jordan is sheltering Hamas and providing a cover for it?

[Al-Nusur] If we are talking about Jordanian opposition, it is part of Jordanian life and the Jordanian political system. It is a disciplined and responsible opposition, working openly and conducting no secret activity. We challenge anyone to prove the opposite. This is first. Second, Israel has opposition parties. There are Jews opposed to the Israeli policy, just as there are people in Jordan who oppose the Jordanian policy. If Israel wants us to silence our opposition, it must also silence its own opposition. But, if they mean that we are sheltering the political wing of Hamas in Jordan while the resistance wing operates in Palestine, and if this is what is meant by the question, then Jordan does not allow any armed resistance to exist on its territory against Israel or any other country. We challenge not only Israel, but anyone in the world, to prove that Jordan has sheltered a resistance movement against any country or has financed an assassination or a coup since 1921. This is not because we condemn what the resistance is doing in the occupied territory. This is up to the Palestinian people. As for us, we have never sheltered any armed group hostile to any foreign party. Please make this clear.

[Abu-Hilalah] People who arrive from the United States say that the Zionist lobby or its majority there is closer to the Likud Party in Israel. As you know, the Likud is expected to return to power in Israel. It believes that Jordan is an alternative homeland for the Palestinians. If the Likud does return to power with the support of the Zionist lobby in the United States, do you think Jordan will be secure against becoming the alternative homeland?

[Al-Nusur] The Likud has unanimously approved the peace process and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty in form and context. This is first. Second, a return of the Likud to power does not mean that it will reconsider the treaty or

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abrogate it. This is out of the question. But if you ask me about the dangers of a future alternative homeland, I would say that such dangers exist and have not ended. Israel will use every opportunity of local strife or a demonstration in Jordan to take us back to the situation that existed before. We must not give Israel or anyone else the justification to undermine public order in the country that could, God forbid, lead to such a situation.

[Abu-Hilalah] The Likud insists that the establishment of a Palestinian state will be out of the question, and that Jordan is the alternative to this state?

[Al-Nusur] They have made no such statements after the treaty. We have not heard any statement to the effect that Jordan is Palestine. We heard this Sharon tune [reference to Likud hawk Ari'el Sharon] in the past. However, we do not hear it now. This does not mean that it has disappeared forever. It might exist in the minds of Israeli expansionists. These are a force that raises its head from time to time according to developments. If we provide a justification for wide-scale regional, sectarian, or factional conflicts in Jordan, Israel will be happy, because it will exploit them to expand at our expense.

[Abu-Hilalah] Following the Alexandria conference, a regional (Syrian-Saudi-Egyptian) alliance has emerged, seeking to create a sphere of influence parallel to the Israeli influence. Do you see any possibility for the establishment of the alliance and its development into an Arab alliance when the state of war with Israel ends?

[Al-Nusur] We cannot predict the future. We did not get the idea that it was an anti-Israeli alliance, and nothing of this sort has emerged. On the contrary, all the participating parties denied such an inclination. What had prevented all these parties from establishing an anti-Israeli alliance before the peace process? In other words, why did they have to wait until the Alexandria conference? I personally did not get the idea that the Alexandria conference was an anti-Israeli alliance. On the contrary, it is an alliance seeking to facilitate the peace process. Furthermore, the quadripartite conference, which was later held in Cairo, was depicted as being against this trend. The Alexandria conference, however, may have discussed the rush of some Arab states, whether compelled or not, to establish relations with Israel and plan exchanged visits prematurely.

[Abu-Hilalah] Considering that we have been raised in this country to regard Israel as our enemy, do you think that the relations between Jordan and Israel will be normal, regular, or distinctive?

[Al-Nusur] It will be a relation between two countries. It will not be distinctive or normal. The normal thing is for the Palestinian people to have their place, entity, and role in the Middle East. Unless the Palestinian people have such an entity, Israel's relations with any Arab state or Arab party will always be in jeopardy. The key is the solution of the Palestinian problem, because all the other problems resulted from this one. Dealing with the outcome without dealing with the reason will be useless. Therefore, I think that Israel's relations with us, with Egypt, and with the other Arab states will be either strong or weak, depending on Israel's behavior toward the Palestinian people.

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Defense Minister: No Yielding to U.S. 'Pressure'

NC0805064295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that Lebanon stands in one line behind the resistance. He called for vigilance and alertness to foil Israel's schemes to sabotage the march of civil peace and return the ugly face of war to Lebanon.

Dallul stressed that he refuses to yield to U.S. pressure to lure us into the Israeli trap. He said: Our decision is that we and Syria will remain as one alliance. He praised Syria's efforts to reunify Lebanon and its Army and to return life to normal in Lebanon.

Dallul yesterday visited frontline villages in western al-Biqa' and held meetings with local leaders there.

Fadlallah Condemns U.S. Trade Embargo Against Iran

NC0605082195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. economic embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to draw negative reactions. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the U.S. President put on a Jewish yarmulke and appeared at a Jewish congress in order to impose an economic blockade against Iran. Such practices are nothing new from Clinton and his administration: they give Jewish interests precedence over U.S. interests in order to please world Zionism, he said.

'Allamah Fadlallah added: We believe the statement the U.S. president made at the Jewish congress was in response to an Israeli request to contain Islamic Iran's position toward the so-called settlement process in the region. But Iran, which maintains its legitimate Islamic principles, cannot accept Israel's usurpation of the lands of Muslims and Arabs.

Fadlallah said the U.S. policy in the region is based on strengthening Israel and its interests and weakening Iran and its support for the mujahidin and resistance in Lebanon and Palestine, which the United States brands as terrorists.

Hizballah Shura Council member Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik said the U.S. decision to impose an economic embargo on the Islamic Republic was meant to serve Clinton's personal interests, not those of the American people. He said Clinton has joined a Jewish war against Islamic Iran without considering the interests of his people. He explained that the U.S. Administration made the decision when it failed to solve some of its domestic problems, a failure that has been accompanied by another solid failure in foreign policy.

Shaykh Yazbik said the U.S. decision, as the Europeans and Americans themselves admit, was hasty. He explained that the Zionists and the agents in Mas'ud Rajavai's organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq] are the only ones who have applauded the U.S. decision and who are in harmony with the U.S. Administration's hatred of Muslim Iran.

Shaykh Yazbik called for a high state of readiness to fight the United States and boycott all U.S. goods in all fields and on all fronts in order to defeat the United States, which has today become the mother of terrorism. As recent events show, he said, American-licensed militias will be the alternative to this reality. [sentence as heard] Shaykh Yazbik enumerated the factors that will lead to the collapse of the American bogeyman and illusion. He concluded: The winds of Islam are coming, and the winds of the Islamic resistance are blowing in every direction. The United States and Israel are not on the side of fate; the future is for the Islamic resistance and its heroic youths.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli condemned the U.S. economic blockade against Islamic Iran saying that it is imposed on the grounds of Tehran's support for the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupation and therefore is part of the campaign against Islam and Muslims. Shaykh al-Tufayli voiced surprise that the Lebanese Government has taken no stand on this decision, even though it claims to support the resistance. He stressed that the Lebanese Government should denounce the U.S. decision. [passage omitted]

Israelis, 'Resistance' Trade Shell Fire in South

NC0605055295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Resistance men bombarded the position manned by the Israeli enemy and their agents in 'Alman at 1830 yesterday. Meanwhile, a resistance group attacked the post that is being erected by the enemy on the 'Alman-Dayr Siryan road. Another group detonated an explosive charge as an infantry patrol was heading toward the 'Alman post. Preliminary reports say the enemy suffered several casualties.

A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south reported this morning that the occupation forces' artillery in al-Shaqif have been bombarding Mazra'at al-Hamra', the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Kafr Tibnit with 120-mm rounds since 0630.

The correspondent adds that the occupation forces pounded al- Jabal al-Rafi' and al-Wadi al-Akhdar in Iqlim al-Tuffah with 155-mm artillery at midnight last night. There are no immediate reports on casualties as a result of the Israeli shelling.

Two Hizballah 'Martyred' in Clash With Israelis

NC0705125395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent reported this afternoon that the Iqlim al-Tuffah region—particularly

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Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jabal Safi, *Jba', 'Uqmata, and Bi'r Kallab*—have come under concentrated artillery bombardment from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah.

Hizballah's Voice of Light reports that at 1030 this morning two Hizballah members were martyred during a confrontation between Islamic Resistance elements and the force manning the Sujud position.

Hizballah has claimed responsibility for an attack against an Israeli position in Sujud that caused no casualties, according to a source in the Lahd [South Lebanese Army] forces. In a statement issued in Beirut, Hizballah announced that at 0845 this morning one of its groups shelled the Sujud position with mortars. The statement adds that at the same time another group attacked an Israeli patrol on the road to the nearby Bi'r Kallab position with machine guns and rockets, killing and wounding some of the patrol members.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli military source has announced that two Israeli soldiers were slightly injured today during an attack on their position in the occupied border zone. A source in the Lahd forces has pointed out that the two Israeli soldiers were injured during Hizballah's first attack at dawn today against a position in al-Dabshah.

Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre and the Western sector this morning. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats are cruising off the shore of Tyre. Early this morning, Israeli troops shelled Kafr Rumman, al-Nabatiyah, the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah, and Hayy al-Maydan in al-Nabatiyah. The shelling was accompanied by machine gun fire and Israeli overflights. The shelling wounded citizen Yusuf Sallum and caused severe property damage.

Hizballah Calls Katyusha Attack 'First Warning'

NC0505123695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has claimed responsibility for a Katyusha attack on northern Israel.

A spokesman for the party said: The rocket attack is in retaliation for Zionist aggression and the bombardment of our villages and kinsfolk in the south. It is also to avenge the blood of the martyred and wounded civilians who fell in the hate-inspired shelling of Jarju' yesterday.

He added: True to the pledge of the Islamic Resistance that the settlers in the Zionist colonies will not be safe, it announces that its bombardment of the Qiryat Shemona colony with Katyusha rockets at 0100 today was our first warning. The Islamic Resistance reaffirms to the enemy government and army that it is ready to do more if attacks on innocent civilians continue.

Hizballah's Qasim Defends Galilee Attack

NC0505191895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1807 GMT 5 May 95

[Telephone interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim, in Beirut, by Antoin 'Awn, in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] South Lebanon was the scene of a serious escalation last night, when Hizballah responded to Israeli shelling by bombarding the Qiryat Shemona settlement in Upper Galilee. [passage omitted]

['Awn] A Hizballah statement described the operation as a warning message to the enemy's government and people. The situation between Hizballah and Israel is governed by an implicit agreement that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sought to reach to stop the scourged land war Israel launched on south Lebanon in 1993. Does the recent deterioration mean that the agreement has collapsed? We put this question to Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Na'im Qasim. He said:

[Qasim] After the 1993 devastation, we announced that the Islamic Resistance will respond to any Israeli aggression against civilians by bombarding northern Palestine. We have repeatedly said that any aggression against civilians and against our peaceful villages will be returned by Katyusha attacks against northern Palestine. We cannot let anyone in northern Palestine live in peace so long as our own people are outside the circle of safety.

['Awn] Will Hizballah take the responsibility for the consequences of this escalation, particularly if Israel decides to deal a fresh blow to civilians in south Lebanon similar to that of 1993?

[Qasim] By existing on our land, the Israelis are occupiers. They are in a state of constant aggression against us. It is the Israelis who escalate the situation by devising ways to harm people from a naval blockade, to the shelling of civilian areas, to the occupation of the border strip, or the usurpation of land.

Hence, we believe that our operations are counteractions to the Israeli presence and aggression. It is not us who escalate matters. Naturally, the enemy might escalate matters any minute. The enemy can take any measure, as long as they are in a state of aggression. But we are prepared to check any aggression.

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Israeli Land Confiscation Belies Commitment to Peace

JN0805071795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 May 95

[From the Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's talks with U.S. officials in Washington coincide with an effort to pass a bill authorizing the movement of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by several members of Congress known for their pro-Israeli sentiments. And this effort was preceded by a decision by Rabin to confiscate dozens of hectares of Arab land and by an announcement that further hundreds of hectares of Arab land will be confiscated later to expand Jewish settlement building in the Arab city of Jerusalem and change its demographic features in order to place a fait accompli before the world community.

TISHRIN adds: The Arab League Council and several world states have condemned the Israeli measure and view it as a threat jeopardizing the peace process. Nonetheless, Israel has persisted with its schemes in complete disregard of the Arab and international reactions. This shows Israel's disregard for the peace process and its lack of seriousness.

The paper goes on to say: Syria has experienced this same disregard and lack of seriousness on Israel's part during the protracted negotiations that have been held over more than three and a half years without any concrete results. Israel has refused to commit itself to complete withdrawal from the Golan in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. peace initiative. Moreover, Israel has thwarted the efforts to achieve comprehensive peace through the conclusion of separate deals that have been shown to be at odds with true peace. For they have failed to achieve peace or stability. In fact, the opposite is true, for they have only further complicated and aggravated the situation.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The regional peace process, the preparations for which took several years of immense efforts and on which the entire world community has pinned great hopes, given the fact that the achievement of peace in the Middle East is extremely important, has thus far remained a game manipulated by the Israeli rulers. For the Israeli rulers have continued to abuse its terms of reference and principles. Moreover, they have continued to show complete disregard for the future of this process. They are indifferent to the serious repercussions of the failure of this process.

As for the newspaper AL-BA'TH, it addresses Israel's refusal to cooperate with the UN Security Council over the city of Jerusalem, saying: This premeditated refusal to cooperate with the world body and the United States, cosponsor of the peace process, shows the insincerity of the Rabin government with regard to the peace process. This also underlines the fact that Israel is not serious about ending the stalemate plaguing the peace process, which will inevitably bring about failure. That is, Israel is determined to step up tension so that it may turn into danger. Moreover, it is determined to aggravate crises so that the region will experience a situation with unpredictable implications.

AL-BA'TH adds: This Israeli intransigence has been met by a joint Arab commitment to the United Nations and its affiliates for the past 50 years. It has also been met by joint Arab cooperation with all international efforts to move the region from the realm of danger to a new situation in order to promote regional security and peace.

The paper goes on to say: When they decided to take the Jerusalem issue to the UN Security Council, the Arabs did so to remedy the situation and halt the countdown for frustration, and consequently the collapse of the entire peace process.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: If it is eager to safeguard its credibility as an authoritative international agency, the UN Security Council must promptly neutralize the dangers posed by the measures taken by Israel, which has rushed to create new realities in order to promote its expansionist course and hostile intentions at the expense of the Arabs, their territory, and their holy shrines.

'Significant Change' in Israeli Position Needed

JN0505142095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: In his speech to welcome the Vietnamese president, President Hafiz al-Asad has reiterated Syria's adherence to the peace process and its eagerness to make it succeed. President al-Asad also accused Israel of obstructing this process in a bid to evade its obligations, especially returning the occupied territories as stipulated by the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

In the wake of the tour of Dennis Ross, the U.S. envoy, the region has seen a series of new, yet old, Israeli maneuvers. The Tel Aviv rulers tried to blame Syria for the failure of the mission of the U.S. envoy. They later acknowledged the indisputable fact that Syria is serious about peace, saying that they cannot meet its demands for balanced and equitable [mutawazinah wa mutakafi'ah] security arrangements.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he still hopes to reach an agreement with Syria and that he will discuss new ideas with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington. Rabin said these ideas do not change the Israeli

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position, but they change the method of negotiations. This means the policy of maneuvering and procrastination continues.

The U.S.-sponsored Syrian-Israeli talks, in which the United States is taking part, have so far failed to produce any results. This is because Israel has not endorsed the principle of full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Israel insists on unfair security arrangements that are not balanced and equitable. There should be a significant change in Israel's position if the current deadlock is to be broken. This change requires full withdrawal and equitable arrangements, and, not as Yitzhaq Rabin claims, by saying that a certain item should be discussed before another or that all the components of a settlement should be discussed together or separately.

It is common knowledge that Syria presented—a long time ago—a paper of principles and proposals. This paper has been discussed at length. Israel, however, has constantly avoided discussing the this paper's sixth item on full withdrawal. For more than three and one-half years, the Tel Aviv rulers have done nothing to clearly signal their intention to accept full withdrawal. They have made a series of ambiguous statements about withdrawal from the Golan. They rejected the principle of returning to the 4 June 1967 lines and the principle of balanced security arrangements. Syria, on the other hand, has declared its commitment to all the objective requirements of peace.

The chances for peace are getting gradually narrower, as the Israeli rulers themselves have observed. Room for maneuvering and procrastination is also getting narrower. Syria has nothing to offer except a sincere and honest will for peace and a certain desire to rid the Middle East of the cycle of war and conflict. Syria also wants to contribute seriously toward making U.S. efforts succeed and toward enhancing world peace. In return, Syria will accept nothing short of full withdrawal, the restoration of all the occupied territories, and the entrenchment of the rule of international law and the United Nations.

Israel's compliance with the principles of the peace process, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle—which can only materialize in full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon—is not a concession on its part. The Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. Southern Lebanon is also an integral part of Lebanon. This withdrawal will end an aggressive policy and an abnormal aggressive situation. It will also establish justice. In return, Israel will reap peace.

The rulers of Israel have long been claiming that they work for peace and have been raising a hue and cry about it. The rulers of Israel have repeatedly appealed to all nations, large and small, to intervene with the Arabs to conclude peace. Peace is now at hand, but Israel is maneuvering, procrastinating, and temporizing. It is also creating obstacles to peace. What refutes Israel's peace claims is its rejection of full withdrawal from the Golan and its outrageous expropriation of hundreds of donums of Arab territory around the periphery of occupied Jerusalem to build settlements.

Peace is not made by false statements and promises. It requires serious work and a sincere response to its principles and obligations. Syria is still waiting for a serious Israeli stand that is in harmony with the UN resolutions, the foundations of the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace principle.

Radio Reiterates Rejection of Secret Talks Proposal

JN0705182895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 7 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: At the conclusion of an extraordinary meeting in Cairo yesterday, the Arab foreign ministers demanded holding an urgent UN Security Council session in order to discuss the Israeli expropriation of 53 hectares of occupied Jerusalem, declare that this measure is illegal, and oblige Israel to cancel this measure, stop the settlement activity, and end the continued closure of this Arab city.

While the Arab resolution was being reported, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said his country is concerned over the Israeli plan to expropriate land in Jerusalem. He asserted that this issue would be discussed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who is currently on a visit to Washington. Christopher added that the Israeli plan does not serve the Middle East peace process.

What draws attention is that Rabin, who acknowledged that not a single state in the world supports the Israeli measures in Jerusalem, said that Israel has its own position in this regard and that it will pursue this position and work for it. In other words, Israel considers itself as being above the international law. Moreover, Israel does not pay attention to the will of the international legitimacy which demands that it stop the expropriation of land and its settlement activities.

Israel once again belittles the calls for halting the settlement, not changing the demographic features of Jerusalem, and for rescinding the decision to expropriate land in this holy city, which is the issue of all Arabs and Muslims.

Israel's pursuit of the policy of violating the Arab and Muslim rights in holy Jerusalem and its circumvention of the resolutions of international legitimacy and its violation of the international laws and charters all confirm Israel's disregard of the peace process. Meanwhile, Israel is deliberately pushing the regional situation toward tension and explosion. It is also exploiting the peace process in order to obtain gains at the expense of the Arab rights and land.

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The one who is interested in peace and responding to the principles and elements of peace will never embark on measures that basically conflict with the requisites, bases, and principles of peace.

Since the very beginning, it was clear that Israel's insistence on partial solutions and separate deals, such as the Oslo agreement, would enable Israel to tamper with the national and pan-Arab rights, control the Palestinian territories, and implement its settlement activities, thus leaving no land and rights for the Palestinian side. This is actually shown in the events and data Israel is trying to create to the advantage of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel is also trying to put the Palestinian side in a whirlpool of talks and agreements which are not based on equitability [takafu'] and balance [tawazun]. This has prompted the self-rule Authority to make further concessions and sellout of lands and rights to the advantage of the Israeli occupation. Meanwhile, the fragile agreements continue to face an unknown fate and to inflict damage and losses on the Palestinian people and their national and pan-Arab rights.

It appears that Israel is still wagering on partial agreements and separate deals. Hence, Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated his proposals on secret talks and behind-the-scenes diplomacy to resolve the differences between Syria and Israel. Rabin claimed that without such talks, the Syrian track cannot be pushed forward.

These proposals, which are far away from the bases of a just and comprehensive peace and which conflict with the formula of the Madrid conference, are rejected and condemned. The peace process should not remain captive to the Israeli policy whose only objectives are to loot the Arab land, maintain the occupation, undermine the land-for-peace principle, and impose a fait accompli on the Arabs, so they would relinquish their lands.

Syria, which cautioned against the Israeli intentions, practices, and objectives, cannot accept anything less than regaining the entire Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, led by Jerusalem. Syria has nothing to hide. Its position is clear and sincere, and it seeks a just and comprehensive peace away from darkness, secrecy, and separate deals and also on the basis of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Columnist Defends Information Rights of Press

JN0805073295 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Apr 95 p 4

[From the "Spotlights" column by 'Ali 'Abbud: "Written Memos Withhold Information From the Press"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Government ministries and state organizations have issued oral and written directives to their employees not to give any information, statistical reports, statements, or interviews to any local news media without prior approval of the competent higher authority.

Therefore, rarely can a journalist obtain information these days from a ministry or state organization, or hold an interview with a ministry or organization employee without going through a long, frustrating process or waiting for hours, and sometimes even for days, before the minister or director general concerned graciously agrees to consider the subject and empower the competent official or person concerned to give an interview or a statistical report. One can also imagine the type of statements or figures that are given in such a climate.

Yet, we hear them say: Our press is not accurate and objective in its reporting and journalists should come to us for correct information before writing their articles.

It seems that their aim is to make journalists and the press serve those who issue such prohibitive and restrictive memos.

If the main ministries in charge of productive economic organizations and companies want to deal with the press and its representatives through memos so information will only be obtainable from the first responsible officials, why then do they get furious whenever the press manages to obtain sound and accurate information and facts about violations in any government department or organization?

Does this not mean that the authority that issues such a prohibitive and restrictive memo is trying to hide something it does not wish to be discussed in the news media? If ministry and organization employees were given the freedom to talk to the press and the news media, work conditions would be much better than they are now.

The question is: Do we, as the press and median, have to follow the progress of work and new developments in our economy through the Arab and foreign press?

We may have more to say on this subject—and we have already said it on several occasions in the past—but what we fully understand is that the president has repeatedly emphasized the freedom of the press and the news media in our country and said that there is no control over them other than the control of the conscience. The prime minister has also repeatedly underlined in written memos the principle of cooperating with the press and responding to whatever is written in it, even if it is a small complaint. We believe that the memos issued by the central ministries and organizations restrict the freedom of the press and journalists in getting access to information. Withholding this information does not serve the homeland or the citizens.

It is strange for educational and cultural institutions to follow the example of government ministries and organizations. Like his predecessor, the current president of Damascus University has issued a written memo banning any university professor or administrative employee from giving any statement to the press without his prior approval. Has withholding information from the press become a public law?

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Urges National Unity, Defends Mojahedin

LD0605211695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 6 May 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at a Koranic recitation competition at Sherpur mosque on 4 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Esteemed ulema and dear brothers: peace and the blessings of God be upon you. No doubt each verse of the glorious Koran is a source of guidance and a bright torch of leadership to the human community. [passage omitted]

We should not allow filthy hands to defame the mojahedin, ulema, or religious students. [Words indistinct] should not allow them to divide our nation into various groups in the name of religious sects or in the name of nationality or tribe. There is no division or distance between the state and the nation's ulema; neither physical distance nor theoretical gap, neither faith nor religious division. Whatever the objective of a brave and serious ulema is, the same objective forms the action program of the Islamic state. [passage omitted]

We want national unity; we want to safeguard our historic honor as well as the national pride of our heroic nation. We do not want our beloved Afghanistan to be guided henceforth from abroad by non-Islamic powers.

Henceforward our free and proud nation will not be a slave or obedient to this side or that. Henceforward we will not allow Islam to be worthless in its own home—in its own trenches and on its own territory. The Islamic state wants this nation to be rescued from ignorance, poverty, and dependence. Although we have not so far been able, because of conspiracies, to implement, in all aspects of our life, the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution as everyone was expecting [applause]—but this is the undertaking of all of us—an undertaking before the God [passage omitted], we have all made this undertaking before God, before our nation, before the illustrious history of Afghanistan to make whatever sacrifices are necessary.

Dear brothers, we should all be responsible. We shall not allow, as happened in the past due to our negligence, our children to be led astray in the schools. We shall not allow our educational system in terms of economics and history to be affiliated with one or another international camp. While it wants friendship and cooperation with all countries, the Islamic state does not allow any side to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Our country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and [word indistinct] of jihad should not be endangered. We should not allow anyone to intervene in the sanctuary of our pride.

Dear brothers, dear ulema, the achievement of jihad has been the greatest of honors in the history of our country. If we delete the honor of our past jihad and the recent one, no outstanding matter of pride will be left for us. There are some people whose main effort is to defame the mojahedin, the Islamic state, and the jihad and to give a bad name to the mojahedin and our martyrs. It is the mission of all of us not to allow anyone to show our achievements upside down. It is true that many mistakes were made after the victory of the Islamic revolution by various circles, the mojahedin, and people of all kinds. The mistakes of those people and circles were their own, not those of jihad or the great achievements of our mojahed and faithful people, who have achieved the greatest victories not only in their own country but at a world level. [applause]

Dear brothers, our esteemed ulema should not allow such people to emerge henceforward to say that they do not want to join the mojahedin. Who are they? Who are the mojahedin? The mojahedin have emerged from among the most sincere and the most faithful ulema, religious students, and the people of our country. While no one, even the great world powers, would frown upon the acts of communism and the Red Army, and all, including the nuclear powers, would shake in their boots, the only people who stood against the Red Army and communism were the mojahedin, who, by the grace of God, defeated the Red Army and eliminated international communism. [passage omitted]

Our dear Ulema should not allow people to shout slogans against the mojahedin in the name of ulema and religious students. They should say that the people who are against the mojahedin and the Islamic state are out of the ranks of the sincere Muslims and have no right to call themselves scholars or religious students. Good Muslims do not allow themselves to side with those who are against the mojahedin. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Said To Accept Plan for New President

BK0605145295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, May 6 (AFP)—A moderate Afghan leader, Syyed Ahmad Gilani, has launched his own peace efforts, saying that embattled President Borhanoddin Rabbani had responded postively to a change of government proposal in Kabul.

Both Rabbani and his main commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have responsded "positively" to the proposal, Gilani, who heads the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), told AFP here Saturday [6 May].

He did not reveal details, beyond saying that a broad-based commission should be set up to convene a tradtional Jirga (gathering) of tribal heads and influential Afghans to elect a new president, replacing Rabbani.

Gilani, who is considered close to former Afghan king Zahir Shah, said he would meet other faction leaders.

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Observers said they were sceptical about the success of Gilani's mission.

They added that it coincided with reports in Islamabad that the 51-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was considering fresh moves to end a bitter confrontation between rival Afghan factions that has claimed thousands of lives since the mojahedin's victory against communist forces in April 1992.

The OIC as well as the United Nations peace missions have earlier failed to resolve political differences between Rabbani and his rivals.

Rabbani, whose two-year term expired in December last year, earlier this year rejected a UN plan to transfer power to a council of Afghan personalities.

Taleban Reportedly Reclaims Farah Rud Area

LD0705223995 Tehran IRNA in English 2214 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Birjand (Khorasan), May 7, IRNA—The Taleban militia has paraded on the streets of Farah some 350 government troops claimed to have been taken prisoner during two days of clashes in the Farah area, western Afghanistan, Afghan sources said here today.

The militia whose emergence on the political scene of Afghanistan is clouded in suspicion, has reportedly reoccupied Farah Rud area from the government forces, the sources said.

However, Afghan officials denied the claim.

Last week, the Afghan Government said that in a series of operations, its forces have pushed back Taleban fighers to [words indistinct] near Dilaram.

Meanwhile, independent sources said Afghan planes have intensified air raids on Farah, capital of the province of the same name. The civilian population in Farah is fleeing the city for the Iranian border, the sources added.

The sources said some inhabitants leave Farah for places of safety during days and return home at nights. All schools and business centers as well as food shops in Farah are closed.

Government Launches Fresh Attack on Taleban

LD0805102195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Ministry of Afghanistan announced that government forces have this morning launched an attack on Taleban positions in the Maydan Shahr region, southwest of Kabul.

According to an AFP report, the ground attack by Rabbani forces on Taleban positions is being supported by tanks and jet fighters. The attack came after the region was pounded by heavy artillery fire for three days. No report has been received yet on the details and casualties of this attack.

Taleban forces cut off the Maydan Shahr highway, which is the access route to Kabul, and prevented fuel tankers from entering the capital city.

India

Recent Views on Relations With Pakistan, Kashmir

Minister Reiterates Readiness To Talk

BK0505155595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India says dialogue with Pakistan can be resumed depending on Islamabad's positive response to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's renewed offer for talks. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that New Delhi wants to resolve the Kashmir issue through bilateral negotiations. In an interview to PTI in New Delhi today, Mr. Mukherjee said the prime minister has reiterated India's readiness for bilateral talks without any preconditions at his recent meeting with the Pakistan president, Mr. Farooq Leghari.

On elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Mukherjee said the decision to hold elections there vindicates our commitment to giving the people of the state their right to elect their government.

Answering another question, he said Pakistan need not have any anxiety over India's missile program because our defense preparedness is for our own security and not for aggression.

On Sri Lanka, the foreign minister said Colombo has not sought India's military support for tackling the escalating violence in the island nation.

Daily Questions Leghari 'Rhetoric'

BK0505035495 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 May 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Mr. Leghari's rhetoric"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The wish expressed by the Pakistan president, Mr Farooq Ahmed Leghari, in an interview prior to his visit to India to "get out of this (blood feud) syndrome" in Kashmir will be widely endorsed. He may not be right, however, in saying that once the Kashmir question is settled, "there won't be any problem" between India and Pakistan. But since any progress towards friendship requires sincere and painstaking efforts to build an atmosphere of trust and a toning down of the propaganda offensive, some of Mr Leghari's observations are bound to raise doubts about

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his intention. For a start, he has categorically ruled out bilateral negotiations, thereby undermining a basic objective of the Simla agreement. Not only that, he is even against the adoption of confidence-building measures, underlining a rigid stance which thrives on the continuation of tension in Indo-Pakistani relations. The reason for this hardline approach is also clear from what Mr Leghari has said. Since Pakistan considers Kashmir to be the "last remaining problem on the agenda of partition", it would like it to be settled through a further division of Indian territory. Otherwise, Islamabad will continue to provide, what Mr Leghari claims, is only political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri militants.

It is obvious that any insistence on solving the problem on these terms will only prolong the feud. So far as New Delhi is concerned, the agenda of partition was completed in 1947 in accordance with the rules framed then, and even that agenda based on the two-nation theory was undone in 1971 with the partition of Pakistan. There is no question, therefore, of turning the clock back by nearly half a century. All that remains to be done is to end the Pakistani sponsored terrorism in Kashmir, which is really a futile continuation of Pakistan's first attack on the state soon after partition. Mr Leghari has shown amazing ingenuity in claiming that it is actually volunteers from "India-held Kashmir" who fought in Afghanistan and have now returned to resist another "brutal military regime". However impressive the rhetoric for domestic consumption, it flies against the US State Department's latest report which refers to "official Pakistani support to the Kashmiri militants". A similar report in 1992 had made the State Department put Pakistan on the watch list for terrorist states. It is unlikely, therefore, that Pakistan's case, as presented by its President, will be taken at face value either in New Delhi or in other capitals.

Direct Talks, No Mediator Urged

BK0705141595 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 4 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Hold Direct Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even if there had been a frank discussion between Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Pakistani President Farooq Leghari by taking advantage of their attendance at the at the SAARC (South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation) summit, neither country would have changed its policies, attitude, or outlook on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan believes that despite the Simla Accord the UN proposals have their usefulness and relevance still intact to solve the Kashmir problem. It regards Kashmir to be the biggest hurdle in normalizing relations with India. On the other hand, India's stand is very clear; it regards Kashmir as an integral part of its territory. Even after the UN proposals, free and fair elections continued to be held in Kashmir, and the people of Kashmir have steadily and continually demonstrated their willingness to remain with India. It is not known whether or not Prime Minister Narashimha Rao lodged the complaint with President Leghari that Pakistan has been spreading terrorism in Kashmir. Only if Pakistan stops aiding and abetting terrorists in Kashmir will peace arrive in that state. Thankfully, the issue of the Kashmir elections was not raised when they talked, but, answering a correspondent's question, President Leghari did say that free and fair elections could not be possible in Kashmir with such a large Indian Army force stationed there. By saying that we have had no talks on the matter, Narasimha Rao made it eminently clear to Mr. Leghari that India was not even prepared to listen to this comment of his.

The only constructive outcome of the two leaders' direct talks is that both accepted negotiations and not military action to be the most meaningful approach to resolve the Kashmir crisis and that besides holding the foreign secretary-level talks, the top leaders of both the countries must also meet to settle the issue. It was because of Pakistan's stubborn attitude that for the last one and a half years even the secretary-level talks could not be held. It is now imperative to start an honest dialogue to clear the stumbling blocks obstructing the normalization of bilateral relations and solve the problems between the two countries. For some mysterious reason, Pakistan seems to feel that India does not want to talk about the Kashmir issue. By adopting this attitude, Pakistan has progressively grown so stubborn that now this very stubbornness is holding it captive. If, during his Indian visit, Leghari got any indication that India will never close its doors to negotiations, he must try to change public opinion in his country. [sentence as published] However, Pakistan must accept this plain and simple truth: India will never agree to part with Kashmir, come what may. Hence it must rest content with whatever part of Kashmir is in its possession. If Pakistan accepts this practical approach, it would herself derive very many advantages and would be able to devote more attentions to its tottering economy. There is no harm in raising the bilateral issues at the SAARC forum as Pakistan suggested. Perhaps this sort of dialogue would bring SAARC countries closer to each other, but then Pakistan must stop requesting mediation on the Kashmir tangle. If the issue is bilateral, then direct talks should be held.

Airing Disputes at SAARC Rejected

BK0705113095 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 4 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "So That It Does Not Become a Wrestling Arena"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The suggestion to turn the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) into a forum to settle mutual political disputes is not at all practical. It would be imprudent to believe that those issues that cannot be settled through mutual negotiations or that are not being settled deliberately could be settled by raising them at this forum. If Pakistan's suggestion of

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raising mutual political disputes at this forum is accepted after making due amendments in the SAARC Declaration, most certainly this forum will lose whatever goodwill it has generated so far. It is very true that despite SAARC completing 10 full years of existence, it has failed to achieve anything significant in its attempt to ensure better regional cooperation. The biggest reason for this impasse is the mutual disputes among the member countries. The main problem is related to Indo-Pak relations, which have not been normalized only because Pakistan is not at all interested in normalizing relations with India. Pakistan is not prepared to sit across the table and resolve its disputes with India. On the contrary, it wants to use every possible forum to publicize its disputes with India, especially the Kashmir disputes. For the leaders of Pakistan this publicity campaign is a tool to hoodwink their own people and divert their attention from internal problems. Raising this India-scare bogeyman to menacing proportions through publicity, Pakistan is fanning terrorism and seeking financial help from other countries to continue its clandestine nuclear program. If this whole background is neglected and the mutual political disputes are allowed to be raised at the SAARC forum, it is going to end up being just a wrestling arena to settle individual scores.

Overlooking this danger, Nepalese Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari has suggested that besides overseeing economic cooperation among the member countries this forum must also accept the challenge of settling political disputes. India's view has always been that with the growing economic cooperation and hence mutual dependence, the solution for settling the political disputes will automatically emerge. Very truly so, because the issues related to economic cooperation are not only economic in their essence, and many political questions remain inseparably linked with them. However, a decision regarding all such questions or problems can be made only through mutual negotiation; the basic reason for this being that every country views its political interest in the larger perspective to serve its own far-reaching ends. As far as India is concerned, wee cannot forget that on many occasions some countries tried to use, albeit unsuccessfully, the SAARC forum to start their India-baiting tirade. It is for these reasons that if this forum is to serve any meaningful purpose it must adopt the constructive approach and try to speedily develop regional cooperation instead of allowing itself to get entangled into the bilateral problems and end up being an arena to settle mutual scores.

Editorial Supports Prithvi; Cites U.S. Setback

BK0605115195 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 May 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Support for Prithvi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ordinarily, there should have been no need for the Standing Committee of Parliament on Defence to ask the Government to go in for serial production of the Prithvi missile. As the scientists and defence experts have successfully completed the tests and user trials, the missile should automatically have entered the deployment stage by now. But, unfortunately, the Americans, who never approved of a Third World country like India attaining mastery in missile technology, were seemingly able to put pressure on the Government into halting, if not capping, India's missile programme. Even as Indian leaders vacillated on the issue, statements from American officials gave the unmistakable impression that they had almost succeeded in having their way. Naturally enough, it was construed as a setback for the scientists who painstakingly developed the missile and the defence forces which were eagerly expecting it to bolster their combat readiness. The Prime Minister's statements from time to time that the more ambitious Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni, was a mere technology demonstrator project reinforced the suspicion that international pressure had succeeded in slowing down the entire missile programme. It is against this backdrop that the committee has strongly recommended the immediate induction of Prithvi.

To be fair to Mr Narasimha Rao, he told the Lok Sabha that the Government would go ahead with the Prithvi programme as per schedule. One wishes he had made a similar statement with regard to Agni, the development and deployment of which would further fortify the nation's defence effort. India continues to face Pakistan's military build-up and nuclear strike capabilities, which cannot have any other target except India. At a time when the US administration is busy finding a way out of the Pressler amendment to enable Pakistan to acquire F-16 aircraft, which have known nuclear weapon delivery capabilities, it has no right, moral or otherwise, to ask India to limit its missile programme to the laboratory level. There is, in fact, a need to go ahead with the Agni programme. A categorical statement in this regard by the Prime Minister would go a long way to emphasise the point that when it comes to deciding defence and security issues, India is guided by its threat perception.

Further on Prithvi Deployment

BK0705112595 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 5 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Prithvi Deployment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The immediate strategic deployment of the surface-to-surface ballistic 'Prithvi' missile with a striking range of up to 250 km has been stressed not be a defense expert or a statesman or politician but by the parliament's Permanent Committee Constituted To Review the Working of our Defense Ministry. Since this permanent committee has representatives from all the political parties, its recommendations should be deemed to be the consensus opinion of the entire nation that the 'Prithvi' must be deployed immediately. What is

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really amazing is that our government is paying so much attention to the U.S. insistence on this matter, which involves extremely sensitive national security issues. Now since a parliamentary forum has given this advice, it is hoped that the government will clear all doubts regarding development of the missile by issuing a categorical statement. The government of India must openly declare that to safeguard our borders and convince our enemy that attacking India is fraught with deadly dangers, deployment of 'Prithvi' missile is essential for India's security consideration.

It is also essential because Pakistan has already deployed the M-11 series ballistic missile it bought from China. The Defense Ministry itself admitted this fact while giving the information to the Parliamentary Committee. Not only by deploying these Chinese missiles, M-11, with a striking range of nearly 300 km but by also deploying its own surface-to-surface Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 missiles with a striking range of 70-150 kilometers, Pakistan has created a severe danger to the border region of India.

Although just three days ago the prime minister assured the House that India would not wilt under any pressure regarding the deployment of these Prithvi missiles, and it appears that India may deploy Prithvi missiles soon, the question is why must we forget about our 'Agni' missiles? Our defense scientists toiled for long years to develop this missile with a striking range of nearly 2,500 km. However, it appears the constant U.S. pressure made India stop work on the Agni missile after declaring it to be a missile created only to demonstrate the technology used in it. Even the parliamentary committee made no mention about this missile in its report. If after three successful test flights of Agni we shelve the program midway and do nothing after all these years, we may lose our future capacity even to reach this stage again. Despite the end of the cold war we have no indication to conclude that in the near future India will face no strategic threats. On the contrary, there is every possibility of threats to our security growing more severe. Had the parliamentary permanent committee given advice to the government about the deployment of the 'Agni' missile, the government would have felt a moral pressure to realize that deploying only the Prithvi missile was not enough.

Iran

Further Reaction to U.S. Impostion of Sanctions

Opposition Blames Regime for Ban

MM0505150395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 95 p 6

[Report by Safa Ha'eri: "Prominent Iranian Military Official Warns of 'Big Explosion'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—There have been reports of further unrest and confrontations outside bakeries in Tehran and other major cities in Iran. Meanwhile a prominent military official blamed the ruling clerics for U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to impose a trade embargo on Iran, warning that the country is moving toward a big explosion.

In an interview conducted by the news service belonging to the Iranian Ummah Party, General 'Azizollah Amir Rahimi wondered about the "point of rejoicing at making the Americans enemies of Iran, when they should be close friends."

He added that "the religious leadership says that it is delighted, while people rush to replace their national currency with U.S. dollars. Does this inspire happiness? They might be rejoicing, but certainly this is not the case with the people, who are suffering and losing their honor and dignity." Gen. Rahimi, a prominent opponent of the regime, was imprisoned for four months on the basis of false accusations. He was released last month.

The text of the interview, which was distributed to media services by fax, included a warning to the Iranian regime: "Our people are not rejoicing at the U.S. decision, nor do they harbor any hostility toward the United States. In fact they do not agree with your policies. So if you are against the Americans, it is your problem, not the people's, because they know that he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind."

As is known, the Iranian Ummah Party is an old secular organization headed by Daryush Foruhar, who comes from Tehran. It calls for a "calm" transition from the current religious dictatorship to a civilian pluralistic and democratic system.

Gen. Rahimi said that the exhausted people are preparing themselves for a new revolution. He also said that "the country is on the verge of a big and violent explosion. So you must change your policy, refrain from uttering empty slogans, and work to rescue the people, or leave. The alternative is for the people to overthrow you." Rahimi's statements coincided with eyewitness accounts of further violence and clashes outside bakeries following the sudden increase in bread prices, which have doubled. Bread is the staple food of the overwhelming majority of the Iranians. [passage omitted]

Velayati: Ban 'Failed at Birth'

JN0505191795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1758 GMT 5 May 95

[Telephone interview from "The Event" program with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Salim Badawi in the studio; date and place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badawi] What is Iran's stand on the U.S. ban, its aims and targets? How do you explain it?

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[Velayati] The U.S. drive against the Islamic Republic of Iran is nothing new. We have had no relations with the United States since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. From our viewpoint, Clinton's latest measure, before being economically or political significant, has been a media clamor that has failed at birth.

[Badawi] Your Excellency, will Iran be able to bear the consequences and effects of the comprehensive U.S. economic ban?

[Velayati] The United States has been imposing an economic blockade against us since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. We have continued our political relations and economic activities with the various world powers throughout this time, with the exception of one state, called the United States. Despite the war the United States imposed on the Iranian and Iraqi peoples, the Islamic Republic of Iran is in good shape in terms of growth and development. The U.S. concern is based on the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has become an independent state, politically and economically. We do not think the declaration of such a ban against any country in today's world will be successful or effective.

[Badawi] How do you evaluate the international positions, especially those that did not express great enthusiasm for solidarity with the United States against Iran?

[Velayati] Most countries today are concerned about their own national interests rather than global interests. They will not tolerate a U.S. policy imposed on them. The United States is still thinking with a post-World War II mentality. Major economic blocs have emerged today and the United States is endeavoring to dominate them and remove them from the arena with deception and trickery, such as calling on these blocs to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is worth mentioning that many of these states have proved to possess political will and independent decisionmaking in terms of their political relations with us.

[Badawi] How true is the U.S. argument about Iran's regional stand? According to President Clinton, Tehran is the main obstacle to peace in the region.

[Velayati] We have always extended the hand of friendship to all Muslim states and peoples in the region. We believe regional cooperation through goodneighborly relations among the peoples of the region will serve the cause of peace and the stability of the conditions in the region and its Muslim peoples.

We believe foreigners in the region are trying to spread sedition and estrangement among the ranks of the Muslims, to spread Israel's hegemony over the region's affairs, and to plunder Muslims' money and wealth. We want the region's countries to be fully aware of what is taking place around them. U.S. concern basically comes from the fact that we oppose and confront the expansionist movement of the regime that is occupying holy Jerusalem. This concern is also due to our support for the just rights of the Muslim Palestinian people. We, as an Islamic country, oppose U.S. policy that is biased toward the Zionist occupiers and that basically supports their aims. We call for the liberation of the occupied territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Just as the United States is doing all it can to support the Zionist occupiers, all the Islamic states and nations should use every available way to support the rights of the Muslim Palestinians and not allow any attempt to pressure and torture that Muslim nation in order to displace it.

[Badawi] How will you reply to U.S. accusations that Iran is at the top of states supporting terrorism?

[Velayati] The United States defines the Zionist regime to the world as a peaceful, peace-loving regime, while it defines the honorable Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers, who are defending their territories, entity, and honor, as terrorist groups. The Islamic Republic of Iran views the Zionist regime as a terrorist and occupying regime and believes it is dutybound to back the rights of the Muslim Palestinians and the Lebanese. It is clear that when the United States harbors hostility to Islam and the Muslims, it is natural that it will create such unfounded allegations about the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Badawi] Mr. Minister: Do you expect or fear that confrontation between you and Washington will develop, and how will you reply?

[Velayati] We are not seeking trouble or disputes, because we believe such troubles and disputes basically do not serve stability in our region, but harm the interests of its Muslim peoples. But if our national and regional security is endangered, we will do our best to achieve our rights.

[Badawi] Thank you, Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

[Velayati] Thank you very much.

European Opposition 'Setback' for U.S.

LD0505220795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 May 95

[Unattributed Commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a report filed by the Associated Press news agency from Brussels, the European Union foreign commissioner, Hans van den Broek, in a news conference 3rd May, announced: Any attempt by America to impose an embargo on Iran is not acceptable to the Union's fifteen member states. It is worth noting, however, that the European Union had already announced it would not agree to U.S. President Bill Clinton's plan to persuade other states to join the U.S. trade embargo against Iran on charges of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for terrorism and its attempt to gain access to nuclear weapons. There is no doubt whatsoever that the explicit and clear opposition of Germany, France, and Britain to the imposition of a

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trade embargo against Iran and, moreover, the European Union's formal stance in rejecting this plan have faced America with a serious setback in its recent confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Washington's western allies have proved the inefficiency of his design on imposition of a trade embargo against Iran by the rejection of Clinton's plan.

Meanwhile what has attracted the attention of the political analysts more than anything else is the U.S. MP's [as heard] sharp criticism of Clinton for the crudity of his plan for a trade embargo against Iran. U.S. congressman, Toby Wright, has said that no one will follow suit of a hesitant and faltering leader like Clinton and you can rest assured that we will not be able to see any prudent leadership from Clinton. The U.S. President's announcement of a trade embargo against Iran in the world's Jewish Congress and her submission to her demands have clearly proven the coordination of the U.S. foreign policies with those of the Zionist regime in confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamism. This move not only works to further increase the Muslims' indignation of America but also will further stir up anti-Zionist sentiments at the level of the U.S. domestic policy.

Meanwhile America's hostile policy towards the Islamic Republic of Iran will help develop further unity and coherence in the Iranian resistant Muslim people and will moreover unmask the nature of the Great Satan to the world Muslims and in particular the Iranian Muslims nation.

Deal Signed With Turkey Despite Ban

LD0505180995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran-Turkey talks on export of gas to Turkey, which have been going on for a number of years, have ended. At the end of a three day visit to Ankara by our country's oil minister an agreement for the construction of a gas pipeline was signed by the two countries' ministers.

Mr. Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the oil minister, returning from Ankara this afternoon, was interviewed by our correspondent. He said: According to the agreement the construction of the gas pipeline—which has a diameter of 35 inches and is 200 km long from Tabriz to the Turkish border—will begin in the next three months. Turkey will be constructing an 850 km pipeline inside its territory to transfer gas from Iran's Bazargan border area to Ankara. The Oil Minister added: According to the agreement the export of gas through the pipeline will begin with an annual amount of 2,000 million cubic metres.

[Begin Aqazadeh-Kho'i recording] The agreement can be said to be the most important one signed by the two countries so far, particularly since such an important agreement has been signed at a time when the United States is trying at the international level to limit Iran's foreign activities. As I have mentioned in other discussions and interviews that measure by the United States has faced defeat even before being implemented. An example is this same agreement signed in Turkey.

To make the dimensions of the agreement clear for our people: The agreement is for 23 years and is worth $20 billion. That demonstrates the importance of the agreement. [end recording]

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i added: According to another agreement for the sale of oil to Turkey, Iran's oil exports to Turkey in the current year [beginning 21 March] will be increased by 33 percent compared to last year. According to him this agreement demonstrates that Clinton's plan to impose sanctions on Iran has failed to be taken up by anyone in the world.

Nateq-Nuri on 'Naive Decision'

LD0705112595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At this morning's open session of the Majles, Speaker Nateq-Nuri offered condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of Imam Mohamed Baqer, and said that the U.S. President's naive decision to impose economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran has strengthened the Iranian nation's slogan "Death to America" and has given it a more serious aspect. Foreign pressure has always been to the benefit and interest of the Iranian nation, he said.

Referring to the enthusiastic welcome given by the revolutionary and sincere people of Lorestan Province, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said the enemies of the Islamic Republic must understand that plots and designs have not affected the Iranian nation whatsoever and the plots would only make the people even more determined to follow their own path. He pointed out: We should appreciate the sincerity and honesty shown by the people and work harder at solving the people's problems.

The speaker also spoke about the need to reform work ethics and to direct youth toward productive and fundamental employment. He called on the Majles to take steps in this direction.

Majles To Debate Ban on U.S. Products

NC0805142895 Paris AFP in English 1342 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 8 (AFP)—The Iranian parliament is to discuss banning products made here under U.S. licence following Washington's trade embargo against the Islamic Republic, a legislator told a newspaper on Monday [8 May].

Ali Yusef-Pur told the daily IRAN that the ban would be a response to the trade and investment embargo

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announced on April 30 by U.S. President Bill Clinton, who accused Tehran of supporting terrorism and seeking nuclear arms.

The ban, which will be debated next week, was proposed by 27 conservative deputies last year, but discussion of the issue was postponed until Clinton announced the U.S. sanctions, the paper said.

If passed, the law would mainly affect the Coca-Cola company, which started production in the northeastern city of Mashhad three years ago.

Coca-Cola's rival, Pepsi, has also resumed activities in Iran after a 15-year ban following the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The return of American soft drinks has angered many Islamic conservatives and hardliners opposed to the United States' cultural and economic influence in Iran, prompting them to press for curbs on U.S. products.

Washington's new sanctions prompted the influential Association of Militant Clergy (AMC) on Monday to call on Iranians to resist what it called a "new plot" hatched against Iran by the United States and Israel.

"Israel and the United States have realised if they don't intervene to contain and destroy our Islamic revolution now, it would be too late tomorrow," AMC said quoted by newspapers here.

Iranian leaders and the media have urged the people to remain "vigilant" in the face of U.S. pressure.

Demonstrations are to be held in the Iranian capital Tuesday, including one in front of the former U.S. embassy, to condemn the "hostile" U.S. stand against Iran.

Washington has pressured Moscow to scrap a deal to supply Tehran with nuclear technology, ahead of a summit between Clinton and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on Wednesday.

Daily Views President Clinton's Moscow Visit

LD0705134595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1140 GMT 7 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Clinton Comes To Strike A Deal—With that title in its column devoted to political commentaries, the daily RESALAT analyses the U.S. President's visit to Moscow. The writer of the daily RESALAT believes that the U.S. President, in his visit to Moscow, which will take place the day after tomorrow, will try to persuade Russia to sever its cooperation with Iran.

The daily RESALAT says the promise of financial aid to Russia is a tool that the United States uses for changing Russian policy. But bearing in mind the promises that have not been honored, the paper believes that it would cause anger among the Russian nationalists and masses.

The writer of the daily's political commentary believes that Russia's ties with Iran are based on that country's national prestige, the abandonment of which would have adverse consequences for the Moscow government.

Officials Deny Efforts To Buy Uranium

LD0705121995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 7 May 95

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran May 7 (Itar-Tass)—The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran has described as "fabrications" the reports that Iran intended to purchase 500 kilogrammes of uranium from Kazakhstan.

This was asserted, according to Iranian sources, by Liberty Radio, in particular. The Radio also alleged that "American diplomats are on their way to Almaty with a view to preventintg the sale of uranium to Iran".

Describing the Liberty Radio's statement as part and parcel of the "U.S. anti-Iranian propaganda", nuclear scientists point out that Iran does not need uranium and did not request it from Kazakhstan.

Minister Meets Chinese Oil Company Official

LD0605212795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting in Tehran on Saturday [6 May] between Mr. (Deng Tao), the managing director of China's oil company, and Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i, our country's oil minister, issues relating to the international oil market, the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in connection with technical know-how relating to exploration, oil production, and refining, and the formation of various Iranian and Chinese companies for activities in technical fields and the exchange of oil, gas, and petrochemical products were discussed. At the meeting, the two countries agreed to expand their cooperation in fields relating to oil and gas.

The managing director of China's oil company is in Tehran, at the head of a delegation of oil officials from that country, in order to take part in the meetings of the committees of the international oil congress [as heard].

Envoy Says PRC Ready for 'Constructive Cooperation'

LD0805120195 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Chinese Ambassador to Iran Hua Liming here Sunday [7 May] voiced his country's readiness to establish constructive cooperation with Iran in all fields.

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The Chinese diplomat made the remark in a meeting with Vice-President in Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh in which the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Pointing to the 8th session of Iran-China joint commission to meet in Beijing in a near future, Hua Liming referred to the upward expansion of bilateral ties in recent years.

He said Tehran-Beijing mutual relations have entered a new sensitive phase, adding that joint projects are under implementation through mutual cooperation.

In the meeting, Mirzadeh also referred to Tehran-Beijing cooperation in economic and trade fields and called for expansion of scientific and technical cooperation as well.

He said a separate committee has been proposed for scientific and technical cooperation which is an indication to the overall expansion of bilateral ties and mutual cooperation.

Mirzadeh expressed satisfaction over the achievements of the 7th joint commission.

Turkey's Intention To Redraw Border Viewed

NC0505183395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 4 May 95

[Unattributed commentary: "President Demirel's Recent Disclosure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Baghdad Administration yesterday asked the Turkish charge d'affaires to explain President Suleyman Demirel's recent disclosure on the need for the redrawing of the border between Turkey and Iraq. In a statement on the matter last week, Demirel said that Turkey needs to make a decision on redrawing the border to obstruct the infiltration of Kurdish guerrillas from the heights in northern Iraq. He also said that the oil-rich Al-Mawsil region belongs to Turkey. Demirel recalled that the Lausanne Agreement provided for the recognition of Turkey as an independent republic after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1923 and noted that the said agreement did not contain a provision that Al-Mawsil had been transferred to Iraq.

All that has caused a reaction in the political circles in Iraq. They are convinced that Demirel's disclosure has been prompted by the Turkish Government's intention to place the oil fields in northern Iraq under its control. The political observers agree that the presence of the allied forces under U.S. command above the 36th parallel in northern Iraq and the absence of authority in that region has encouraged the Ankara Government's ambition to place the oil fields in Karkuk and Al-Mawsil under its control.

The Turkish Government has claimed that its argument is based on historic facts and that it is trying to safeguard Turkey's interests and territorial integrity. However, it will be recalled that the European countries' support for the Kurds has made Ankara uneasy. Obviously, the Turkish officials are eager to establish the true intentions of the European countries. Nevertheless, whether or not the strategy the Turkish Government has adopted to place the oil fields in Al-Mawsil under its control will yield results is unknown. The political circles doubt the possibility of Turkey achieving results through its effort.

Further on Reaction to Remarks

NC0605114395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 6 May 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has summoned the Turkish ambassador to Iraq and asked for explanations on the recent remarks by the Turkish president. Late last week, on the heels of news of the withdrawal of Ankara's military force from northern Iraq, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel called for the demarcation of the Turkish-Iraqi border. Reaction to his remarks was strong.

Political analysts believe that considering that the Iraqi-Turkish borders were delineated in the late 1920's, Demirel's recent remarks are actually a revival of Turkey's claims to parts of northern Iraq. In the 20's Turkey demanded that Baghdad, which was under the yoke of British colonialism at the time, hand over the state of Mosul to it. Under the Ottoman empire, the state of Mosul was much vaster than the current Mosul province; it included Karkuk, where quite a large Turkish minority lived.

The Iraqi Government's concern over Turkey's claims was one of the major factors which the British exploited and, in exchange for a promise to safeguard Iraq's integrity, Britain forced Baghdad to sign a pact which fulfilled all of its colonialist interests.

These political analysts believe that under the current conditions, Turkey is incapable of pursuing its old expansionist policies because it is now facing a deep racial schism inside Turkey; and since in northern Iraq the majority of the people are either Kurdish-speakers or Arabs, expansionist policies by Turkey would result in further aggravating the racial crisis in that part of Turkey, which would plunge Turkey into an unprecedented political crisis. Moreover, the regional countries would by no means accept such a situation.

Thus, one can say that the Turkish president had other objectives in mind when he made his recent remarks, one of which may be to justify Ankara's military attacks on northern Iraq, which have been recurring every so often over the past few years.

Expansion of Cooperation With Russia Viewed

LD0705143795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 May 95

[Station commentary]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, the Iranian foreign minister's deputy for Euro-American affairs, concluded his Russian visit on Saturday [6 May] and arrived in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, for talks with Tajik officials. The visit of Mr. Va'ezi to Moscow and the talks between the officials of the two countries were focused on expanding trade ties, cooperation in the nuclear energy field, and matters of mutual interest.

Expansion of Iran-Russia ties at present are viewed as significant by the officials of the two states. This significance stems from the fact that Tehran and Moscow have played a major role in the events of the past few years in the region simultaneous with the formation of the independent states. In fact, one can say that Tehran-Moscow cooperation, besides involving bilateral ties in economic and commercial spheres, is also significant in terms of some major regional issues.

The joint efforts in determining regional conflicts are designed at finding a solution to the crisis in Tajikistan. The crisis in Tajikistan in fact is among the issues that have already caused concern not only about the stability and security in that country, but also with regard to regional stability and security.

In the opinion of political observers, the visit of Mr. Va'ezi to Moscow and his current trip to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, are the outcome of the dynamic of the Islamic Republic of Iran seeking to promote regional ties. In fact, this is the issue to which political circles in the West, especially the White House officials, have so far shown great sensitivity.

[Word indistinct] close to the meeting between the presidents of Russia and America, Washington is making extensive propaganda and political efforts to depict as insignificant this role of Iran which has emerged prominently especially in the framework of regional cooperation. America is resorting to baseless ploys and an adverse propaganda campaign especially with regard to the nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia in the field of production of energy.

The cold reaction from Moscow to Washington's request for taking part in economic sanctions against Iran and also the continuing political and economic mood which has at present manifested itself in the visit of Mr. Va'ezi to Moscow and Dushanbe are indicative of the nullification of the efforts to which Washington has pinned its hopes.

Bosnia's Izetbegovic Thanks Rafsanjani for Efforts

LD0705171795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, had a telephone conversation with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, in which he discussed the latest political and military situation in that country.

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian aid and for organizing the tripartite meeting in Tehran between Iran, Bosnia, and Greece, to promote peace in that region. He called for the continuation of these efforts.

He described the food situation and living conditions of the Bosnian people—especially in Bihac—as serious. He said: In spite of the fact that the Bosnian people are suffering from lack of facilities and from hunger, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations say that they are unable to solve this problem.

Mr. Izetbegovic expressed regret at the fact that he was unable to visit Tehran because of the attacks of Serb aggressors on residential areas in Bosnia. He hoped, however, to be able to travel to Tehran soon in order to exchange views with senior officials there and also to thank the good people of Iran for their material and spiritual support.

For his part, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. Izetbegovic and assured him that Iran's humanitarian assistance and our country's political support for the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, will continue. He added: The people of Iran always sympathize with the suffering people of Bosnia and share their pain and sorrow.

The latest clashes between the Serbs and Croatians and the outcome of the tripartite meeting in Tehran were also discussed during this conversation.

Regional Relations Said To Need 'Review'

NC0605194095 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 May 95 p 2

[Commentary by Vafa Tabesh: "A Political Memorandum—Response to a Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with a London-based Saudi newspaper on Friday, 22 April 1995 [as published], the Kuwaiti amir, once again, has taken a hostile position concerning the Iranian islands, saying the islands belong to the United Arab Emirates. However, he also spoke about the expansion of bilateral relations with Iran! These remarks, which came soon after the esteemed Majles speaker's visit to Kuwait, should be considered a response by Kuwait to the visit, and, actually, to Iran's repeated showings of goodwill.

Unfortunately, our diplomacy with our southern neighbors continues to mark time; and not only is no progress seen, but we continue to be faced with ill-proportioned responses, as if there are no ears on the other side of the border to hear our calls for friendship and peaceful coexistence.

Such reactions should make our foreign policy planners, especially those in the foreign ministry, keep a more careful eye on the costs of our country's goodwill messages. Is it not better to send our country's high-ranking

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officials to grateful countries that are trustworthy and truly interested in expanding bilateral relations?

There is no need to state the fact that a foreign visit by a high-ranking dignitary shows the closeness of two countries and of the significance that these countries attach to bilateral relations. And because of the position that the esteemed Majles speaker holds in our system, a visit by a dignitary of this rank to Kuwait should be viewed and assessed from this angle. Frankly speaking, among all our neighbors, what real common ground do we have with Kuwait to promote cooperation on bilateral and regional issues? There are probably some elements worth following concerning oil and Iranian- Kuwaiti trade relations that we are unaware of.

As the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council periodically repeats either collective or individual hostile positions concerning the islands, what is the purpose of a visit of such caliber to a country that owes so much to Iran for its position in the Oil war? Further, it has not yet repaid its debts for this position, even diplomatically.

It may be argued that with such high-level visits to the shaykhdoms, we want to assure that Iran is not a warmonger and erase the fear of Iran that has been instilled by the West. Had we not put the issue of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and Iran's impartial position on this—something that was extremely valuable for the governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and their Western allies—behind us, such arguments may have been applicable. But how can those who have experienced Iran's wish for coexistence, through its actions at the most sensitive junctures in history, justify such political overtures? The truth is that unfortunately our neighbors' unkind hostility is rooted in the military nature of their governments more than it is rooted in their fear—and we cannot do much to heal this ill.

Unfortunately, the response to the visit by a high-ranking Iranian official to a Persian Gulf country was extremely bitter. It was expressed by the host country in this way, and by the Saudis—who are the stage managers of the so-called council—with the repetition of its position banning the disavowal of polytheists' ceremonies.

Apparently, the time has come for us to radically review our methods to expand relations with our Persian Gulf neighbors; otherwise, we can expect to hear more sinister sounds from the other side of the waters—something which will definitely not guarantee the interests of the people in the region.

*Paper Reviews Country's Economy in 1994

95LA0186A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] The year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] is considered the beginning of a new period in Iran's economic history, an age in which it is hoped there will be a basic transformation in the pillars of the nation's economy, even though the beginning of this period brought many difficulties and hardships. Its bright prospects, however, which portend independence, self-sufficiency, and efficiency for the Islamic Republic of Iran, have given hope to the experts that more than a century after the dismissal of Mirza Mohammad Taqi Khan Amir Kabir, who was the originator of a new movement in the structure of the nation's economy, Iran is again taking the proper steps toward development.

With the end of the imposed war and the beginning of the work of the new government, new thinking came to prevail in the nation's economy: a point of view based on moving in the direction of a market economy and adjustment. In view of the nation's circumstances at that time—which included massive destruction and basic damage to the infrastructure sectors such as oil, electrical power, steel, and transportation—to begin to move the new strategy required the injection of huge amounts of capital into the nation's economy.

The arrival of the Persian Gulf war—and following that the unprecedented increase in the price of oil to $40 on the one hand and the West's expedient flexibility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran on the other—caused a sudden rush of capital into the country.

The nation's import curve has been on the rise since 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. In 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] it reached a peak at $29 billion in goods. Most of the imports in this period were industrial machinery and equipment for petrochemical complexes, refineries, power plants, and steel industries. Of course during this period imports of luxury goods and automobiles, along with the creation of new automobile assembly lines, which are heavy consumers of foreign exchange because of the constant importation of parts, also played an important role.

In 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], however, with the subsequent drop in the price of oil that began in 1371 and the end of the period allowed for repaying short-term debts, the problems showed themselves.

The drop in oil prices, each dollar of which represents a drop of about $1 billion in the nation's annual revenues, caused a budget deficit of about $3 to $4 billion annually in lost foreign exchange earnings from oil sales. Likewise the unexpected insistence by Iran's trade companies on collecting their outstanding debts undermined the country's credibility to a great extent within international economic groups. These events, which took place concurrent with the Central Bank's unwise moves giving up foreign exchange reserves, brought a severe shock to the nation's economy in the second half of 1372 [23 September 1993-20 March 1994].

The basic cause of these frustrations was improper analysis by the nation's policy makers of the outlook in the oil market and of the West's deceitful relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Massive short-term borrowing of money and goods without taking the criminal record of the European

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governments into account caused the pressure of debts to fall suddenly onto the nation's economy.

If we were to work more cautiously on the political and economic strategy—though at the outset we would move with less haste than in past years—the country would move continuously toward development. Clearly this would be more desirable than the present erratic course.

In any case, 1372 was a bitter and instructive experience for the country, indicating that future plans must be done with greater emphasis on foresight and caution.

With the beginning of 1373, the nation's economy reacted to the new circumstances. Initially the Central Bank, however much it was merely reacting, placed strict controls on the consumption of foreign exchange in the country. The nation's industry, which is now faced with reduced production and a problem with sales due to the shortage of raw materials on the one hand and the unavailability of means and government preferences at former levels on the other, gradually adapted to the new circumstances.

The growth of the nation's industry, which was 0.6 percent in 1371 and 1 percent in 1372, has improved in 1373, though there are no accurate statistics.

Currently the policy on technology imports has given way to the development of exports. The system of natural elimination has gradually come to prevail in the economy in the sense that industries that do not have sufficient justification for existing and continuing to operate must be put aside. It is only in these circumstances that efforts toward growth and increased utilization, whose goal is maximum profit on investments and which is the first requirement for continued operation, will lead the nation's producing sector to its highest performance.

On the other hand, the nation's economy has found the proper path to obtaining investment. Increased exports of handicraft industries and carpets, clothing, dried fruit, and steel, which are the main export items, are the way to keep the economy going. In 1373, for the first time, the official export statistics reached the significant level of $4 billion, and this is itself a great victory for the country. Yet in the same year the nation's imports declined sharply to a minimum of $10-11 billion. Despite these hopeful indications, there are still questions in the minds of some concerning the performance of the nation's economy in 1373, some of which are as follows:

1. There is no doubt that the change in the direction of the nation's economy is not due to the awareness of those who give shape to it of the improper path taken in the past, nor has the current growth occurred because these people have been cautious. Rather, this was solely due to pressure from external factors, chief among them the reduction in oil revenues. Now the question is: Will this movement continue with the removal of current difficulties or will it stop?

2. One must take care that stopping excessive and unnecessary imports does not lead us into a closed economy. In today's world, the concepts of growth and development have come to be linked to trade and the exchange of goods and technology. If the severe foreign exchange conservation policies in effect today (and they are necessary) are continued in the future when today's problems do not exist, growth will definitely be slowed to a great extent. As soon as industry and agriculture are able to compete with their international rivals, they must be allowed to engage in this fight in order to create the conditions necessary for growth.

For example, while our automobile manufacturing industry is able to build acceptable and profitable models and our tax system has the ability to collect what is rightfully due to the deprived from those who are well off, no attention at all is being given to closing the nation's market to foreign automobiles. Without that, quality in our automobile production industry will fall behind.

3. Unfortunately, as before, despite the changes in other sectors of the economy, we are confused and unprepared in terms of monetary policy and overall policies.

In 1373, the nation's monetary regulations changed again and again in fundamental or minor ways. Laws were prepared and approved many times which had nothing in common with the previous laws, and they themselves did not last that long. All these things attest to the lack of a proper comprehensive and practical perspective on the nation's economic conditions and the lack of a long-term and careful way of thinking in this sector's decisionmaking bodies. The decisions that have been made are generally temporary and one-dimensional.

For example, when the government was faced with a shortage of currency in circulation, it sold bank reserves, and, lacking a proper estimate of market appeal and demand, it changed the rates several times. Then when the reserves were inadequate to meet the needs, this policy, which had previously been designed for long-term use, was made temporary and another crisis was created in the market. Since the first problem, meaning the shortage of government currency in circulation and its abundance among the people, was not eliminated, this policy was implemented again in another way.

Of course the main causes of this disturbance have always been the money brokers and middlemen, who earn huge incomes for themselves due to the inability of the nation's monetary system.

It appears that a practical system and an efficient and careful system that is independent of personal tastes and ideas and has not come out of abstract theories has not yet been created in this sector, and as long as this problem remains, we will see the existing problems and issues.

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4. One of the government's goals in the development and economic adjustment program is privatization. It has now become clear, however, that this measure will not achieve its goals because of the political, economic, and social problems.

At a time when many of the nation's production or service industries are faced with the lack of an economic justification on the one hand and with financial and administrative problems on the other, and when because of the political problems it is not possible to import capital from outside the country at the level expected, and when from the social and secular point of view privatization has come up against problems, and when the necessary capital is not available to those capable of running the industries, insisting on privatization will either end up wasting national capital and buying and selling government units at reduced prices, or it will create ways to abuse the law and lead to managers privatizing government companies using government capital and taking them over themselves.

This is why the proposal to improve and reform industry is being made more vigorously, as an alternative to continuing the extensive privatization activity in its current form, which so far has produced nothing desirable whatsoever.

5. A questionable point in the government's performance in 1373 is the campaign against high prices. The first question is: Why was the important issue of high prices not addressed previously? The government's performance during the campaign against high prices was also seen as regrettable by economic observers.

In circumstances where the high prices in our society are due to dozens of small and large factors, unfortunately the government persuaded the public to believe it was only because of selling at high prices and to regard all existing issues as being caused by the involvement of middlemen. When it came time to confront the problem, the government implemented strike programs, whose short-term nature was evident from the beginning, in order to deal with the final link in the distribution chain. Then the program on the chain stores was presented in such a way as to suggest that its implementation would solve all the problems.

Pakistan

Continued Reactions to U.S. Sanctions on Iran

'Source' Comments on Iranian Rights

BK0605152195 Lahore THE NATION HEADLINE NEWS SERVICE in English 1510 GMT 6 May 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Pakistan has criticised the proposed US ban of trade with Iran. A Pakistani Foreign Ministry source said Iran, as a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), had a right of access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. "You have to trust the NPT to provide safeguards, you cannot pre-judge the issue," he said, adding that the United States had failed to substantiate its charges against Tehran.

'Contradictions' Seen in U.S. Stand

BK0305101095 Karachi DAWN in English 3 May 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Embargo on Iran: An Act of Desperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Few would actually believe that President Clinton's move to slam a trade embargo on Iran is motivated by America's genuine interests or any legitimate concern about any of Iran's actions and policies. There are so many contradictions in the US position and the charges levelled against Tehran are so bereft of credibility that Mr Clinton's action smacks more of an attitude of overlordship of a big power out to carve out an empire for itself. Accusing Iran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons and of funding international terrorism, the US has proceeded to take punitive action against Tehran. This move is not the first of its kind. In March it had banned American investment in oil operations in Iran and Americans had been barred from working in that country. It has been plain for some time that the US was moving towards some kind of a showdown with Iran, which is the only country in the Middle East (apart from Iraq) which has refused to be browbeaten into toeing the American line. Hence Sunday's [30 April] announcement did not come exactly as a surprise.

The fears expressed by the US president in respect of Iran's nuclear programme are obviously a pretext to justify his move to prevent Russia and China from forging closer economic ties with Tehran. It could hardly have been a coincidence that a few months ago Moscow had concluded a one-billion dollar deal with Iran for the supply of two light water reactors. How could these be linked to any conceivable possibility of nuclear proliferation when Washington is to supply similar reactors to North Korea as a recompense for Pyongyang agreeing to give up its nuclear arms programme? Moreover, Iran is a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty and has agreed to IAEA's [International Atomic Energy Agency] standard monitoring safeguards. Evidently, the US is not happy about the Russians expanding their share in the nuclear supplies market. Nor would America be pleased to see Russia consolidating its relationship with the Third World. Hence the furore.

There is also a very strong suspicion that the embargo, which was announced with much fanfare at the World Jewish Congress in New York on Sunday, was Mr Clinton's strategy to shore up the flagging support for his presidency on the eve of the election year (1996). It is widely known that an American leader who can win the support of the Zionist lobby improve his electoral prospects immensely. Why else would Mr Clinton choose the Jewish Congress to make the announcement, when the

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executive order regarding the trade embargo is to be signed later. It is also intriguing that American experts have been quick to reassure that American economic interests will be affected marginally by this move. Thus, the American importers have been permitted to buy Iranian oil from their subsidiaries. If the embargo is merely symbolic, it is more sinister since it confirms the fear that the US will be using it as a weapon to penalise Iran and thus appease Israel and its Zionist allies in the US.

Needless to say that Mr Clinton's strategy will prove sterile, even counter-productive. His allies in the western world who are in the process of forging closer economic ties with Tehran have been critical of his move. They have refused to go along with the embargo. As for Iran, it could easily make up the loss of four billion dollar oil sales to Washington it will suffer as a result of the sanction. The oil market reacts promptly to any disturbance and the oil prices shot up no sooner than the embargo was announced. At the same time, the US can expect to see most Third World countries line up behind Iran. Mr Clinton should know that this is not how a superpower is expected to behave if it is serious about promoting peace and stability in the world. That task calls for statesmanship and vision, rather than a tendency to look for scapegoats among nations considered inconvenient and unamenable and chastise them periodically in a show of supremacy of the American power in the post-cold war world. This is the staff petulance is made of, not world leadership.

Editorial Urges Support for Iran

BK0605095295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Folly on Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US seems to have got stuck out on a limb as far as its call for a trade embargo against Iran is concerned. France and Britain are said to have rejected the move out of hand, while Germany and Japan have reportedly postponed consideration of loans to Iran, perhaps out of deference to the US rather than real conviction. Russia has announced it is going ahead with the supply of a nuclear reactor to Iran despite US urgings to cancel the sale. China too has resisted US attempts to pressure it to forego nuclear cooperation with Iran for peaceful purposes. The rationale for the embargo presented by President Bill Clinton was that Iran supports international terrorism and is on the lookout to acquire nuclear weapons capability. Both charges have failed to convince international opinion that what the US proposes is either justified or even possible. On the Middle East, the resistance by groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah has less to do with Iranian support and more to do with continuing Israeli brutality against Palestinian lives and property and its continued occupation of Southern Lebanon. Iran supports rejection of an unjust peace and that is not only its right, it is a direct challenge to the current received wisdom that the US' will, right or wrong, is unchallengeable in today's unipolar world. Iran has accepted IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards and an inspection regime for its peaceful nuclear programme. The US has not so far produced a shred of evidence that Iran has or intends to transgress the peaceful parameters of its programme and go for a weapons capability. At the same time, Israel's estimated over 200 nuclear bombs do not seems to figure in the US' discriminatory, partial, and therefore hypocritical non-proliferation 'concerns', as we in Pakistan are only too well aware of. None of these are reasons to subject Iran to the kind of bullying the US seems determined to bring to bear, although the success of that effort is doubtful given the lack of enthusiasm of even its closest Western allies. The trade embargo is likely to hit the US subsidiaries which were refining and marketing Iranian crude the hardest. Their place will be taken by others not so blinded by the US' new-found zeal to manufacture a fresh 'enemy number one'.

The real motivation and timing of the US move has been explained by a Russian spokesman as the beginning of a new struggle for influence in the Gulf, by other observers as tied to the domestic compulsions of President Clinton to appear tough after the revolution. Whatever the US President's domestic or external compulsions, there is no justification for this campaign of vilification and browbeating of our Muslim neighbour. Pakistan should use its good offices with the US to help it see the folly of its present course and persuade it to talk to Iran rather than resort to crude sabre rattling. If despite that the US persists, Pakistan should take a clear stand in support of brotherly Iran and against this not-so-new version of American gunboat diplomacy.

Lack of Support From Allies Outlined

BK0705125395 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 7 May 95 P 10

[Editorial: "Iran: President Clinton Stands Isolated!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia, China, and Japan have refused to support the U.S. embargo against Iran and have indicated their intentions to continue to maintain their trade and other economic contacts with that country. During a news conference in Moscow the other day, a Russian spokesman announced that Russia will not review its decision to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran. Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said on Friday [5 May] that his country cannot endorse the U.S. decision to impose sanctions against Iran. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman criticized the U.S. position, saying that economic and trade restrictions are not a solution to the problem.

The United States has declared Iran a "terrorist state" and announced restrictions against that country, but Washington's move has not received unequivocal support from the entire international community. The European countries have already voiced their opposition to

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these restrictions. Even U.S. business circles are criticizing the U.S. Government's decision because, as a result of this U.S. decision, the U.S. firms buying oil from Iran will suffer losses of billions of dollars and the prices of oil will rise further in the U.S. market.

Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, warned Russia on Friday night that the United States will end its bilateral military cooperation with Russia if the latter does not call off the deal to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran. This reflects the magnitude of frustration the U.S. Administration now feels on not receiving the full backing of its "allies" for its action against Iran. Observers have also expressed fear that this new development might create difficulties in the upcoming talks between presidents of the United States and Russia.

In fact, the United States has not been able to furnish any proof of Iran's involvement in terrorism. Iran has already accepted the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards for the nuclear reactor it is acquiring from Russia. There is also no proof about Iran's capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. On the other hand, Israel—which has made 200 nuclear weapons so far—is a "peace-loving" nation in the eyes of the United States, even though Tel Aviv's involvement in terrorism is a proven fact.

It seems that the United States is implementing the new phase of its plan to establish its domination over the Gulf region and has decided to hit Iran to intimidate other countries in the region, including Pakistan. Some observers also say that President Clinton is facing serious domestic problems in the wake of the Oklahoma incident and certain other developments. Moreover, elections are due in the United States next year, and President Clinton will definitely seek re-election. Therefore, by announcing action against Iran, he wants to influence the thinking of the U.S. voters and to prove that he is capable of avenging the indignity and defeat suffered by the United States in the drama for freeing hostages in Tehran at the time of the Iranian revolution. However, the negative international reaction to the U.S. President's appeal signifies that Clinton will have to face similar defeat once again.

Leghari Returns From SAARC Meeting in New Delhi

Discusses Meeting With India's Rao

BK0405152995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said he has told the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, clearly and emphatically about Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir dispute and emphasized its solution for peace in South Asia.

He was addressing a news conference at Islamabad airport this afternoon on his return from New Delhi after attending the eighth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. He said during his meeting with Mr. Narasimha Rao, he conveyed Pakistan's willingness to enter into a meaningful dialogue with India, provided that country exhibited a positive attitude toward the settlement of the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. He said it was incumbent upon India to create a propitious climate in Kashmir for the resumption of dialogue on the questions like reduction of troops, repeal of TADA [terrorism and disruptive activities prevention act] laws, and release of detainees. The president said he impressed upon Mr. Narasimha Rao that the Kashmir problem can only be resolved through talks and that India cannot achieve a military victory in Kashmir. He also conveyed Pakistan's position to the Indian leader of the opposition, Mr. Vajpayee, intellectuals, and media people during his meetings with them.

Further on Meeting Indian Officials

BK0505013795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said he told Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao clearly and emphatically about Pakistan's position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and emphasized its solution for the sake of peace in South Asia. He was addressing a news conference at the Islamabad airport this afternoon upon his return from attending the Eighth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Summit in New Delhi. [passage omitted]

The president said he also told the Indian prime minister that the production and installation of the Prithvi missile is escalating tension between the two countries because its only target is Pakistan. He said the Prithvi missile system can be shifted from one place to another, affecting Pakistan's security. He categorically stated that India should not commence a new arms race in the region by producing and installing this missile.

He said he met the All Party Hurriyat Conference leaders this afternoon and the meeting was very fruitful. He said that in his view the All Party Hurriyat Conference is determined not to take part in the so-called elections in the occupied territory.

In response to a question on whether Pakistan would request a revision of the SAARC Charter to allow the discussion of important bilateral issues, the president said it is high time that SAARC revised its charter. There is a need for consensus however, to realize this objective. Generally, there is an impression that the desired objectives of SAARC cannot be realized without resolving major problems.

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Sri Lanka

Kumaratunga Discusses Rebels, Peace Efforts

BK0505152195 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 23 Apr 95 p 4

["Excerpts" of an interview with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga by Seema Guha; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga poses a major problem for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). She is the first Sri Lankan leader to capture the hearts of the island's Tamil population. She has also succeeded in convincing the Tamils that her government is willing to give them their due. Excerpts from an interview with Seema Guha:

[Guha] Is it going to be an all-out war after this?

[Kumaratunga] No. From our side, there will not be war, we are interested in peace. We can start talks if they (LTTE) wish to do so. We have said this is a temporary setback.

[Guha] Tamils in Colombo say the LTTE has a problem dealing with your government because the people in the North and East have faith in your administration.

[Kumaratunga] This is the first time since independence that the people in the North and the East have had faith in the Central government in Colombo. And I think we have not, since starting the peace process, done anything wrong because we are sincere in what we want and we are very clear about our strategy.

Our main aim is to bring peace in achieving what we openly set out to attain. We have no hidden agenda, and maybe, the LTTE is not used to dealing with this kind of a situation. Their only experience with Colombo earlier was with the United National Party [UNP] government: That government always played the fool with them. The LTTE had problems dealing with us, they did not know what to do. Therefore, I think some distrust crept in. But we can't help that. We have done what we said we were to do.

[Guha] You are satisfied you have done your bit?

[Kumaratunga] Oh yes. We have done much more than the security situation permitted. No one can complain. No other government, which has held discussions with armed groups, has done what we have. They wanted removal of the Pooneryn army camp, lifting of the fuel embargo, restoration of fishing rights and permission to their cadres to walk about freely with arms in the Eastern province, which is under us.

We gave them fuel, we gave them 95 per cent of their fishing demands, but we refused to move the Pooneryn camp and also turned down the request for the cadres to carry arms. But even in this, we tried our best to accommodate them.

We removed the Pooneryn camp 600 metres back about two months ago. The LTTE, in 1993 or was it in 1992, asked the UNP government to move the Pooneryn camp 400 metres back. But when it came to us, they demanded its removal. This is in a situation when they could trust us 100 times more.

About carrying weapons, we gave in in some cases because we knew that the LTTE cadres, hiding in the jungles, wanted to come out and meet their friends and relatives after the ceasefire. They wanted to take part in political activity. They wanted to carry arms because they were afraid they would be targeted. There was some truth in this. So we tried to help.

In many areas, their local commanders and our local commanders met and came to various arrangements. The problem arose in Batticaloa. In certain places, where carrying arms could be dangerous for them, they left the weapons in the nearest Sri Lankan army camp. Later, they went and collected the arms.

Where in the world have you heard of an armed group being allowed to leave their arms in the army camp before peace is finally negotiated?

But right along, we knew that if they broke up the whole thing, we were strong enough to go for war. We would try to avoid it to the best of our ability even now. As much as the government is committed to the hilt to peace, it is equally committed to preserving the unity and integrity of the country.

[Guha] You certainly cannot afford not to say this after today's incident?

[Kumaratunga] We are good at peace, but we are also good at war. If necessary, another important point we have made is that hostilities were commenced by the LTTE, without any provocation by the government.

We cannot be provoked into commencing one more disastrous war.

[Guha] So from your side the action now will be basically offensive. Is that so?

[Kumaratunga] For the moment, definitely.

[Guha] So this is the end of peace talks?

[Kumaratunga] Yes. They have said it. Not us. They announced the termination of cessation of hostilities and attacked us, though according to our agreement, both sides were supposed to give 72 hours' notice. They gave us five hours before they attacked.

I got Mr Prabhakaran's letter at around 9 pm. At 1 am, the boats went off.

[Guha] When you read the letter, you must have known there would be trouble. Did you warn your service chiefs.

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[Kumaratunga] Yes, of course, I knew. I immediately rang the service chiefs and the police and alerted them. They sent the message down the line. I was on the phone all night.

[Guha] The LTTE strengthened their position in these three months while the security forces did not.

[Kumaratunga] We froze our army in the areas they held, we did not go back. The LTTE started new camps, 13 in the Eastern province. All this is in the last one month. When we noticed the LTTE camps, we informed their headquarters. Twice they heeded our complaint. The third time, they told us to arrest the culprits because instructions had already been given to the cadres. It was in the last one-and-a- half months that they got worked up.

[Guha] Why?

[Kumaratunga] They were worried about the good relations we have rebuilt with India. We kept on reassuring them. Mr Prabhakaran is paranoid about peace for obvious reasons.

[Guha] This whole thing about extradition and India...

[Kumaratunga] I wrote to him saying there was nothing to worry, before I went to India. One group of so-called national newspapers began a terrible campaign against me and the peace process. They said I was going to India to talk about extradition of the LTTE leader with [Indian] Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. This was not even on the agenda. We sent a rejoinder to the newspaper.

The next day, they came out with another story. This time they said we were asking for Israeli help to arrest Mr Prabhakaran. At that point I did write to Mr Prabhakaran, explaining that no such thing was on the cards.

Later, I found that the owner of the newspaper, which carried on the campaign against the peace process, had a motive. The owners were arms suppliers to the previous government and had a stake in continuing the war.

[Guha] How much can you give now? Have you reached a point where you cannot bend more?

[Kumaratunga] Not yet. But now it is up to them. They have to begin to give now.

[Guha] You must have been prepared for setbacks in the negotiations?

[Kumaratunga] Yes, of course. I know it cannot be easy. They gave us a deadline on March 28 and again on April 19. March 28 was just as I was returning from India last month and April 19, before I left for Paris for the aid group meeting. The LTTE has always made trouble for the government before the Paris aid group meetings. So we were not really surprised. The LTTE has also consistently made the point that aid money would be spent for arms to fight the war.

I wrote to Mr Prabhakaran saying it does not work like this. The aid for Sri Lanka has already been committed by donor countries. It has nothing to do with peace or war. Aid is given in such a way that you cannot divert funds, I reassured him. But Mr Prabhakaran persists in giving out such statements. The LTTE is a sophisticated group. Their drafting of letters, the language they use, the kind of protocol they maintain, speaks volumes for their efficiency.

[Guha] Are you worried about your personal security?

[Kumaratunga] Yes, I can very well be the target. The consistent, only solution the LTTE has used to settle differences is to kill off anybody with whom they don't see eye to eye. Security has been tightened considerably since the LTTE attack.

Minister: Military Response to LTTE Only Option

BK0505114995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has no way other than resorting to military response to the actions of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. So said the minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris, at the weekly cabinet briefing on Colombo this morning. However, he said that this did not in any way hamper the peace process that the government was to [words indistinct]. The minister said that President Chandrika Kumaratunga had reiterated that the peace process of the government would continue with or without the LTTE.

Prof. Peiris declined to answer several questions on the government's attitude with regard to the LTTE attacks since the violation of the cessation of hostilities. But he made it clear that the government had been forced to increase the military budget. He also said when the situation was conducive, the government would put forward the political package. Asked whether the government has contacted the LTTE to resume talks, Prof. Peiris said that no such contact had been made directly or through a third party. He pointed out that it was the not the government that broke the peace process, but the LTTE.

The military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, said that there was no incidents reported last night. He said limited operations are being conducted, particularly in the Eastern Province, and operations were being planned for the future. Brigadier Munasinghe did not elaborate on the operations. However, he said that the present security personnel were professionally well trained and disciplined to defeat the LTTE. Brigadier Munasinghe pointed out that during the three months of the cessation of hostilities, not a single incident was reported against the defense forces, which maintained a high standard of morale despite many provocations by the LTTE.

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Military Shopping for Hardware To Counter Rebels

BK0605114595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Air Force is shopping for antimissile systems and the Army is planning major operations to deal with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] which broke the cease-fire on 19 April, military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said yesterday. Answering a question if the Air Force was shopping for antimissile systems, Brig. Munasinghe said: Quite possibly in the present situation. He said that there were no incidents after Thursday [4 May] evening when a terrorist was shot dead at (Suthandi) in the Batticaloa District. He said after two air crashes on Friday and Saturday, there were no noteworthy confrontations between the Army and the LTTE. There were occasional sporadic small arms firings. When they fired, we returned the fire. Sometimes there may be casualties, Brig. Munasinghe said.

Rebels Reportedly Kill 12 'Elite' Commandos

BK0805043795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0357 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 8 (AFP)—The Tamil Tiger guerrillas Monday [8 May] gunned down at least 12 elite police commandos conducting an operation against them in eastern Sri Lanka, defence sources said.

Gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed the police Special Task Force (STF) platoon that was carrying out anti-rebel operations in the Kangikudichchiaru jungles of Ampara district, the sources said.

They said seven more STF men were missing after the confrontation, and there were no immediate reports of rebel casualties. The STF victims included two officers, the sources said.

The latest killings raised to 188 the number of security personnel killed by the LTTE since it withdrew from a three-month-old truce with the Colombo government on April 19.

The Tigers are leading a protracted campaign for independence in northern and eastern Sri Lanka where the Tamil minority of two million is concentrated.

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